

The Ahmadiyya GAZETTE

Khilafat Edition

USA



Participants of 2014 USA National Majlis-e-Shura with Ameer Jama'at USA, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar
Top: Missionaries, Middle: National Majlis-e-Amla, Bottom: Shura Delegates



An educational and spiritual monthly publication

Ahmadiyya Gazette USA

OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE AHMADIYYA
MOVEMENT IN ISLAM, USA

May - June 2014

Patron **Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar**
Ameer Jama'at USA

Editor-in-Chief **Dr. Naseer Ahmad**

Editor **Dr. Karimullah Zirvi**

Editorial Advisor **Muhammad Zafrullah Hanjra**

Cover: Latif Ahmed **Gazette online:**
Photos: Kalim Bhatti **Ahmadiyyagazette.us**
Hammad Malik

Ahmadiyya Gazette USA

Masjid Baitur Rahman
15000 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905

Phone: 301-879-0110 Fax: 301-879-0115

Editor: karimzirvi@yahoo.com

Tel. and Fax: 201-794-8122
201-314-5307 (Cell)

Acronyms for salutations used in this publication

saw: sallallahu alaihi wasallam
(Peace and Blessing of Allah be upon him)
as: alaihissalam
(Peace be upon him)
ra: radhi allahu 'anhu/'anha
(May Allah be pleased with him/her)
rh: rahimahullahu ta'ala
(May Allah shower mercy on him/her)
aba: ayyadahullahu ta'ala binasrihil aziz
(May Allah support him with His mighty help)
swt: subhanahu wa ta'ala (Glorified is He and exalted)

The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA is published by the Ahmadiyya Movement
in Islam, Inc., at the local address:

Fazl-i-Umar Press
P.O. Box 226, Chauncey, OH 45719

Periodicals Postage Paid at Chauncey, Ohio
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Ahmadiyya Gazette
P.O. Box 226, Chauncey, OH 45719-0226



Table of Contents

- 2 Al-Qur'an
- 3 Al-Hadith
- 5 Sayings of the Promised Messiah^{as}: Belief in Unity of God Established Through the Holy Prophet^{saw}
- 6 Translation of the Friday Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} on May 24, 2013 at Baitun Noor Mosque, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 16 The Sayings of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih I^{ra} About Khilafat: Translated by: Arifa Haleem
- 21 Khilafat: The Great Unifier: Mansura Bashir Minhas, Miami
- 24 Khilafat A Source of Peace: Saiyed Burhan A. Qaderi
- 28 Advent of the Promised Messiah^{as}: G. H. Qamar Baloch
- 29 Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V's^{aba} Message Regarding Shura
- 31 A Brief Report on the Proceeding of Majlis Shura 2014: Syed Sajid Ahmad
- 34 Reminiscence of A Tragic Day: May 28, 2010: Mubashir Latif Ahmad, Toronto, Canada
- 36 Dialog With Christian Scholars: Rashid Arshed, Los Angeles
- 39 A Brief Description of How to Adjust Upon Immigration From Pakistan: Zafar Malik, San Jose, CA
- 40 Merced Chapter Held Muhammad^{saw} Messenger of Peace Teach-in at Merced College: Shahid Sohail
- 41 Report of Muhammad^{saw} Messenger of Peace Event: Muhammad Jaffar, General Secretary, Sacramento
- 42 Muhammad^{saw} Messenger of Peace Conference Held in Dayton, OH: Mirza Mahmood Ahmad
- 44 Qur'an Forbids Men From Hurting Women: Imran Hayee
- 45 Holy Qur'an: The Guidance for the Righteous: Anwer Khan
- 50 Olive, A Holy Plant With Several Benefits: Nasir S. A. Malik
- 53 Report of the First Annual Qur'an and Science Symposium: Sohail Husain, M.D. President AAMS and Ijaz Ahmad
- 57 Militant Extremists in Pakistan Murder American Muslim Physician (Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar) on Humanitarian Mission
- 58 Humanity First: Gift of Sight 2013 Eye Camp: Ahsan M. Khan
- 60 The Expression "Qul" Used in the Holy Qur'an: Naeem Ahmad, Westbury, NY
- 61 Trip to Espana (Spain): Khola Humayun: Atlanta, GA
- 62 Chino Imam Meets with Two Inland Empire Mayors: Jonathan M. A. Ghaffar
- 65 Mahmood Ahmad Bengali Shahid: Imam Inamul Haq Kauser
- 66 Nooruddin Abdul Latif: Khurram Khan
- 69 Muslims Celebrate May Day at Uliga Mosque, Marshall Islands: Falahud Din Shams, National President Marshall Islands
- 70 English Books Available From amibookstore.us

Al-Qur'an

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ ۚ وَكَانَ لَكُمْ فِيهِمْ دِينُهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَىٰ لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا ۚ يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا ۚ وَمَنْ كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ﴿٥٥﴾

Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors *from among* those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will, surely give them in exchange security *and peace* after their fear; They will worship Me, *and* they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoso is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious. (24:56)

Commentary:

Because it serves as a prelude to the introduction of the subject of *Khilafat* emphasis is repeatedly laid in verses 52-55 on obedience to Allah and His Messengers. This emphasis implies a hint to the status and position of a *Khilafat* in Islam. The verse embodies a promise that Muslims will be vouchsafed both spiritual and temporal leadership. The promise is made to the whole Muslim nation but the institution of *Khilafat* will take a palpable form in the person of certain individuals who will be the Holy Prophet's Successors and the representatives of the whole nation. The promise of the establishment of *Khilafat* is clear and unmistakable. As the Holy Prophet^{saw} is now humanity's sole guide for all time, his *Khilafat* will continue to exist in one form or the another in the world till the end of time, all other *Khilafats* having ceased to exist. This is, among many others, the Holy Prophet's distinctive superiority over all other Prophets and Messengers of God. Our age has witnessed his greatest spiritual *Khilafat* in the person of the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement. (Short Commentary by Malik Ghulam Farid)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

The prescribed fasting is for a fixed number of days, but whoso among you is sick or is on a journey *shall* fast the same number of other days; and for those who are able to fast *only* with great difficulty is an expiation - the feeding of a poor man. And whoso does good of his own accord it is better for him. And fasting is good for you, if only you knew. (2:184-185)

Commentary:

Fasting, as a religious institution, in whatever form or detail, is to be found in all faiths. "By the greater number of religions, in the lower, middle and higher cultures alike, fasting is largely prescribed; and when it is not required it is nevertheless prescribed to some extent by individuals in response to the promptings of nature" (Enc. Brit.). It is the common experience of saints and seers that a certain degree of severance from physical relations or worldly connections is essential for spiritual advancement and has a powerful purifying effect on the mind. Islam, however, has introduced a new orientation and a new spiritual significance in this institution. According to it fasting constitutes a symbol of complete sacrifice. One who fasts not only abstains from food and drink which are the chief means of sustenance and without which one cannot live, but also from going in unto one's wife which is the means of assuring one's progeny. Thus he who fasts really evinces his readiness, if need be, to sacrifice his all for the sake of his Lord and Creator (Short Commentary by Malik Ghulam Farid)

Al-Hadith

KHILAFAT

عَنْ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: لَا خِلَافَةَ إِلَّا عَنْ مَشُورَةٍ

Hadhrat 'Umar^{ra} relates: "*Khilafat* is established through consultation."

(*Kanzul 'ummal kitāb al-khilfata ma'al imarah, p 139/3*)

يُزَوَّى عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: مَا رَأَيْتُ أَحَدًا أَكْثَرَ مَشُورَةً لِأَصْحَابِهِ
مِنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that he did not see anyone consulting his Companions more often than the Messenger^{saw} of Allah.

(*Tirmidhi kitabul jihad bab ma ja' fil mashawarah*)

عَنْ عَلِيٍّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! الْأَمْرُ يَنْزِلُ بِنَا بَعْدَكَ لَمْ يَنْزِلْ
فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ وَ لَمْ يُسْمَعْ مِنْكَ فِيهِ شَيْءٌ ، قَالَ : أَجْمِعُوا لَهُ الْعَابِدِينَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي وَ
اجْعَلُوهُ بَيْنَكُمْ سُورَى وَ لَا تَقْضُوا بِرَأْيٍ وَاحِدٍ

Hadhrat 'Ali^{ra} relates that I said: "O Messenger^{saw} of Allah! What should we do if in your absence, we come across a matter that is neither explained in the Holy Qur'an nor found in your explanation?" He^{saw} said: 'Gather the pious people from among my followers and let them carry out deliberations among themselves. Do not decide based on one (person's) opinion.' "

(*Durri Manthur, p 10/6, i'lam al-muwqi'in, p 54/1 li ibni Qayyim*)

FASTING AND ITS IMPORTANCE

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: قَالَ اللَّهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ: كُلُّ عَمَلِ ابْنِ آدَمَ لَهُ، إِلَّا الصِّيَامَ فَإِنَّهُ لِي وَأَنَا أَجْزِي بِهِ - وَالصِّيَامُ جُنَّةٌ فَإِذَا كَانَ يَوْمٌ صَوْمِ أَحَدِكُمْ فَلَا يَزُفْتُ وَلَا يَصْحَبُ فَإِنْ سَابَهُ أَحَدٌ أَوْ قَاتَلَهُ فَلْيُقِلْ: إِنِّي صَائِمٌ - وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ بِيَدِهِ لَخُلُوفٌ فَمِ الصَّائِمِ أَطْيَبُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ رِيحِ الْمِسْكِ - لِلصَّائِمِ فَرْحَتَانِ يَفْرَحُهُمَا، إِذَا أَفْطَرَ فَرِحَ، وَإِذَا لَقِيَ رَبَّهُ فَرِحَ بِصَوْمِهِ -

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "Allah, the Lord of Honor and Glory says: 'All deeds of a son of Adam are for himself, but his fasting is for Me and I shall be its reward.' The fast is a shield. When any of you is fasting he should eschew loose talk and noisy exchanges. Should anyone revile him or seek to pick a quarrel with him, he should respond with: 'I am observing a fast.' By Him in Whose Hands is the life of Muhammad, the breath of one who is fasting is purer in the sight of Allah than the fragrance of musk. One who fasts experiences two joys: He is joyful when he breaks his fast, and he is joyful by virtue of his fast when he meets his Lord. '"

(Bukhari kitabussaum bab hal yaqul inni sa'im idha shutima)

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: مَنْ لَمْ يَدَعْ قَوْلَ الزُّورِ وَالْعَمَلَ بِهِ فَلَيْسَ لِلَّهِ حَاجَةٌ فِي أَنْ يَدَعَ طَعَامَهُ، وَشَرَابَهُ -

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "If a person does not eschew falsehood and false conduct, Allah has no need for him to abstain from food and drink."

(Bukhari kitabussaum bab man lam yada' qaulazzuri wal'amala bih)

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: إِذَا جَاءَ رَمَضَانُ فَتَبَحَتْ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ وَغُلِقَتْ أَبْوَابُ النَّارِ وَصُفِّدَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ -

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "When *Ramadan* arrives the gates of Paradise are opened and the gates of Hell are locked up and Satans are put in chains."

(Bukhari kitabussaum bab hal yuqal ramadan au shahri ramadan)

SAYINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}

Belief in Unity of God Established through the Holy Prophet^{saw}

It is a false and stinking notion that belief in the Unity of God can be achieved otherwise than through the Holy Prophet^{saw}; nor can man achieve salvation without it. How can there be faith in the Unity of God unless there is perfect certainty with regard to His existence? Be sure, therefore, that belief in the Unity of God can be achieved only through a Prophet, as our Holy Prophet^{saw} convinced the atheists and pagans of Arabia of the existence of God Almighty by showing them thousands of heavenly signs. Up till today, the true and perfect followers of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) present those signs to the atheists.

The truth is that till a person observes the living powers of the Living God, Satan does not depart from his heart, nor does true Unity enter into it, nor can he believe with certainty in the existence of God. This holy and perfect Unity is appreciated only through the Holy Prophet^{saw}.

[Haqiqatul Wahy, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 22, pp. 120-121]

It is not within the power of man to comprehend all the activities of the Divine. They are above reason, intellect and imagination. A man should not be proud of his pittance of knowledge that he has to some degree comprehended the system of cause and effect, inasmuch as that knowledge of his is very limited, as if it were a millionth part of one drop out of the ocean. The truth is that as God Almighty Himself is unbounded His activities are unbounded also. It is beyond and above human power to reach the reality of every activity of God.

Contemplating His eternal attributes we can, however, affirm that as Divine attributes have never fallen into disuse, therefore, in God's creation, some species have always come into existence; but any eternal personal coexistence (with God) is false. It is to be remembered that, like His attribute of creation, His attribute of destruction has always been in operation all the time and that also has never fallen into disuse.

The philosophers have put forth every effort to bring the creation of heavenly and earthly bodies within the purview of their physical laws and to establish the source of all creation, but they have utterly failed to do so. Whatever they have gathered together as the result of their physical research is quite incomplete and defective. That is why they have not been able to adhere to their theories throughout and have always changed them about. As their research is confined entirely to their reason and speculation and they receive no help from God, they cannot emerge out of their darkness. No one can truly recognise God till he understands that there are numberless activities of the Divine which are far beyond and above human power, reason, and speculation.

Before reaching this stage of understanding a person is either an atheist and has no faith in God, or if he does believe in God, that God is the result of his own reasoning and is not the God Who manifests His own Being and the mysteries of Whose powers are so numerous that human reason cannot encompass them. Since God has bestowed upon me the knowledge that His powers are wonderful, that they have depth upon depth and are beyond of beyond, and are outside comprehension, I have always held the philosophers as firm disbelievers and secret atheists. It is my personal observation, and I have had experience of such wonderful Divine powers, that we can only describe them as something coming into existence out of non-existence. I have described some instances of these signs at some other places. He who has not observed this wonder of Divine power has observed nothing. We do not believe in a god whose powers are limited by our reason and speculation and there is nothing beyond. We believe in the God Whose powers, like His Being, are unlimited, unconfined, and unending.

[Chashma Ma'rifat, Ruhani Khazai'n, Vol. 23, pp. 280-282]

Translation of the Friday Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}, on May 24, 2013 at Baitun Nur Mosque, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

27th of May came heralding a message of peace and security for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at. This day came bearing the glad tidings of the fulfillment of the promises that God had made with the Promised Messiah^{as} and it came to scorch the enemies of Ahmadiyyat in the fire of their own rage and frustration and it came as a day that destroyed their false joys and happiness.

Hazoor^{aba} recited verses 52-57 of *Surah Al-Nur*, Chapter 24 of the Holy Qur'an. In these verses from *Surah Al-Nur*, Allah, the Exalted, says:

“The response of the believers, when they are called to Allah and His Messenger in order that he may judge between them, is only that they say: ‘We hear and we obey.’ And it is they who will prosper.” (24:52)

“And whoso obeys Allah and His Messenger, and fears Allah, and takes Him as a shield for protection, it is they who will be successful.” (24:53)

“And they swear by Allah their strongest oaths that, if thou command them, they will surely go forth. Say, ‘Swear not; what is required is actual obedience in what is right. Surely, Allah is well aware of what you do.’” (24:54)

“Say, ‘Obey Allah, and obey the Messenger.’ But if you turn away, then upon him is his burden, and upon you is your burden. And if you obey him, you will be rightly guided. And the messenger is not responsible but for the plain delivery of the Message.” (24:55)

“Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoso is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious.” (24:56)

“And observe Prayer and give the *Zakat* and obey the Messenger, that you may be shown mercy.” (24:57)

For the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at* there is a special day that comes in the month of May. I mean the 27th of May, which is known as *Khilafat Day* and is celebrated as such by the *Jama'at*. With reference to this, despite the fact that three days still remain, I have chosen to talk about this topic today.

While the 26th of May 1908 was a heart rending day for the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at*, and it shook the faith of many, and caused restlessness in the hearts of some, for the enemies of Ahmadiyyat it was a day they used to inflict pain and suffering on the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at*.

In the history of Ahmadiyyat, there are such painful accounts recorded of the statements and acts of the enemies of Ahmadiyyat that one is amazed to read them and it is difficult to imagine that a human being can

stoop to such a low state and involve himself in the kinds of actions that they undertook at the time of the death of the Promised Messiah^{as}.

How could such deplorable deeds be expected from those who attribute themselves to the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} who was sent as a Mercy to all the worlds!

People act in accord with their nature but on the 27th of May 1908, we saw the Might and Decree of Allah manifest itself and we saw Him fulfilling His Promise. 27th of May came heralding a message of peace and security for the Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at*. This day came bearing the glad tidings of the fulfillment of the promises that God had made with the Promised Messiah^{as} and it came to scorch the enemies of Ahmadiyyat in the fire of their own rage and frustration and it came as a day that destroyed their false joys and happiness.

The 27th of May is not an ordinary day for the Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at*. This is a very important day and this importance increases yet more when we cast a glance at the prophecies of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. The vast majority of the Muslims of the world look to the Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at* with great regret and resentment, in fact we should say they look at us grudgingly and with great envy that we have *Khilafat* established among us.

They have tried many times to establish *Khilafat* among their own selves and they keep trying, but they have always been unsuccessful in this endeavor for the very powerful reason that they have disobeyed a clear directive of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} had said that when the Promised Messiah^{as} and *Imam Mahdi* appears, they should take whatever pain and suffering may be necessary and go, crawling on their knees, over glaciers of ice if need be, and convey his *Salam*, greetings of peace, to him.

Then, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} also informed everyone of the signs, that if they see them being fulfilled, they should realize that the one making the claim is true in his claim. These signs that the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} mentioned are both heavenly and earthly and they are frequently made mention of among our gatherings and also we present them to our opponents with regularity - but I will not mention them at this time.

It is, however, a cause of great misfortune for those who do not believe that, for worldly and material reasons, or for fear of the so-called Muslim divines and clerics, or because they do not pay attention or heed the directives of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}, not only have they not accepted the one who made the claim to being the Promised Messiah^{as} and *Imam Mahdi*, but their governments have become so audacious as to use most foul language when referring to this holy personage who has been sent by God.

Their actions are indeed evil. And all this, despite knowing full well that the age in which we live is shouting and informing anyone who cares to listen that this is the time for the one who was to come to have indeed made his appearance. Allah has shown all the signs confirming these things and continues to show signs, but still these people continue to oppose the one sent by God.

After each act of opposition by the enemies of Ahmadiyyat, Allah castigates them with a new punishment but their defiance and audacity is such that they are not willing to give up their opposition. So if this is not their great misfortune what is it and what can we say it is?

In any case, as I said, this day is of great importance and the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} has himself made an announcement to this effect in one of his prophecies. The exact date was not foretold, but certainly, by announcing the advent of one who would be his greatest and most ardent and true lover, who would come as the Promised Messiah^{as} and then after him announcing that an era of *Khilafat* would begin, he made a prophecy of this day's coming.

So what could be more important than that about which the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} himself should have made an announcement.

There is a *Hadith* of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} narrated by Hadhrat Huzaiifa^{ra} that the Messenger^{saw} of Allah said:

“Prophethood will remain among you as long as Allah wills. Then He will take it away and *Khilafat* on the lines of prophethood shall commence, and then, when Allah wills, He will take away this bounty also. Then in accordance with His Decree corrupt/erosive monarchy would be established, which will make people sad and feel constrained and then when this era will come to an end, in accord with another Decree of God, despotic kingship would emerge till the Mercy of God will descend and bring this era of tyranny and excess to an end. Then again, *Khilafat* on the precept of prophethood shall be established,” and then after saying this the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} became silent.

So clearly in this *Hadith*, first the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} talks about his own prophethood and then he talks about the establishment of *Khilafat-e-Rashida*, the Rightly Guided *Khilafat* which would move forward on the pattern, or lines of prophethood, and the world saw and witnessed how the first four *Khilafats*, which are referred to as *Khilafat-e-Rashida*, had nothing to do with the worldly kingships and their pomp and glory. They operated with just one goal in mind; to please Allah and kept this in view as they discharged the duties of *Khilafat*. Then also the world saw how every word of what the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} had said came true when he said that there would be times when kingships would reign and at times these would be a little less severe and at other times they would be very severe in their treatment of the people.

So if we read history we see the words of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} coming to fulfillment by the establishment of *Khilafat-e-Rashida* and then the kingships in which to some degree of severity we saw tyranny and excess taking place. The kings who came were more inclined to the world and material things than the faith.

Then the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} said that, as it has always happened, God turns with Mercy to His creatures, and after a long period of darkness, God’s Mercy shall descend and bring to an end the era of tyranny and excess. And *Khilafat* on the pattern of prophethood would again be established. And then he became silent as it is stated in the *Hadith*.

Every one can ponder on this *Hadith* and see that the Holy Prophet Muhammad’s^{saw} prophecy about *Khilafat-e-Rashida* was fulfilled, then his words predicting the coming into being of relatively less despotic, and then immensely despotic era of kingships also were fulfilled.

So then how can there be any doubt about the last part of his prophecy? So when all the signs have been fulfilled and also Allah has declared in the Holy Qur’an:

And among others from among them who have not yet joined them. He is the Mighty, the Wise. (62:4)

In other words Allah will again arrange things for the coming into being of *Khilafat* on the pattern of prophethood.

Allah, the Exalted, says, “He is the Mighty, the Wise.”

So when Allah’s Mighty, All Encompassing Wisdom determined, and when His Mercy was moved, the Muslims were freed from despotic kingships and *Khilafat* on the pattern of prophethood was established as He desired.

So we Ahmadis are fortunate because we bear witness to the truth of the first part of the Holy Prophet Muhammad’s^{saw} prophecy, and believe in it, and have seen it being fulfilled, and we are those who also believe in the last part of his prophecy. We believe fully that this part of his prophecy also has been fulfilled.

There is another *Hadith* of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} which relates to the verse from *Sura Jumu’ah*:

"And among others from among them who have not yet joined them. He is the Mighty, the Wise." (62:4

Keeping in mind these words of Allah, and keeping in mind the conditions of the world and having seen all the signs that have been manifested, we have believed in the Imam of the Age who was to have come.

In one of his sayings, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} has referred to the Promised Messiah^{as} as, “Nabiullah,” or Messenger and Prophet of Allah. Then the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} has also said that between me and the Promised Messiah^{as} there is no Prophet. Then in accord with verse 4 of *Sura Jumu'ah*, *wa aakhareena minhum*, the Holy Prophet^{saw} said that the one who was to be raised in the latter days would be like unto his own coming into the world.

In other words, the person who was to come, the Promised Messiah^{as} would be so totally immersed in his love of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}, that he would become, as it were, his reflection and thus he would attain the title of Prophet upon being sent into the world.

While explaining this verse of *Sura Jumu'ah*, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} had placed his hand on the shoulder of Hadhrat Salman Farsi^{ra} and said that the one who was to come in the latter days would be from among these people and would be a non-Arab.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} also told us the sign which relates the disappearance of faith and it being lifted to the farthest heavens. This is a sign of the times that these *Ulema*, Muslim religious divines, clerics, also accept and they acknowledge that at the time when the Promised Messiah^{as} had made his claim, the condition of the faith of the Muslims was extremely poor as if faith had disappeared from the world.

So they all see that all the signs have been fulfilled. And the signs having been fulfilled tells us that the Promised Messiah^{as} who was to come had indeed come at the appointed time.

Here, let me also make clear that by virtue of the Promised Messiah^{as} being the *Khatamul Khulafa* he attained to the very highest pinnacle of *Khilafat* on the pattern of prophethood or we can say that he was bestowed the very highest pinnacle of *Khilafat* on the pattern of prophethood.

And by virtue of him being the Promised Messiah^{as} and in fulfillment of the words of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}, by being totally immersed in the love of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} he was bestowed also a reflected prophethood. Thus the system of *Khilafat* that began with the Promised Messiah^{as} is in reality a continuation of the pattern of the prophethood of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. And the work that is to be done by this *Khilafat* is to insure that the commandments of the Holy Qur'an are followed by the Muslim *Umma*, and the rights and duties that are due to Allah and to His Creatures are fulfilled and discharged by the Muslims. And by making the practice (*sunna*) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} our model, insure that it is acted upon and the *Jama'at* is urged to act upon it. So *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* is a continuation of *Khilafat-e-Rashida* in this period of the rejuvenation of Islam in the latter days.

With regard to the first period of Islam, and after learning from Allah, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} had announced that the *Khilafat-e-Rashida* would come to an end after a certain period of time. But with regard to the *Khilafat* that would be started during the renaissance of Islam in the latter days, he had given the good news from God that this *Khilafat* would remain forever.

But for which people is this good news given? Most certainly this good news is given and will be true in favor of those who will discharge the dues of *Khilafat*. Those who will walk on the ways of *taqwa*, righteousness, and do good deeds, and those who will go on perfecting their worship.

There are many people who join the Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at* but because they are those who fail to discharge their obligations to *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*, so the Decree of Allah causes them to separate from the *Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya*. For the sake of their worldly concerns and desires either they are separated from the *Jama'at* or they themselves announce their separation from the *Jama'at*.

But has the rate of progress of the *Jama'at* ever suffered as a consequence of such people separating from the *Jama'at*? Has an obstacle ever been created in our way by such things? Never. When one such person leaves, Allah bestows upon us a whole body of people instead. When the dry branches are cut off or pruned, evergreen and living branches sprout in greater measure as a result.

So because this is a promise of God that the system of *Khilafat* must continue, so Allah has Himself undertaken the task of pruning and weeding. It can never be the case that Allah, the Exalted, should not take care and fail to fulfill the prophecy made by His most beloved and dearest human being. Most certainly, this prophecy has been fulfilled and shall continue to be fulfilled.

Yes, it is true that some such times come when those of weak faith and the opponents of Ahmadiyyat begin to think that now Ahmadiyyat will meet its end but the signs of Allah's Help come and take the *Jama'at* out of all such times of difficulty.

The greatest heartrending time that came upon the *Jama'at* was indeed when the Promised Messiah^{as} passed away. The enemies were happy and the members of the *Jama'at* were in a state of fear but the Promised Messiah^{as} had been preparing the *Jama'at* for this for quite some time by telling them that Allah had told him repeatedly that the time of his death was near. But he had said that this was no cause for concern or of becoming despondent.

The Promised Messiah^{as} wrote all this down in his book, "The Will." And where he wrote this, that he would soon be departing from this world, he also laid out the *Jama'at's* spiritual, financial, and operational methodology and informed everyone that the *Jama'at* would indeed become established and continue to exist forever.

He informed the members of the *Jama'at* that they should not worry, because Allah had promised to him that He would cause the *Jama'at* to go on flourishing; because this was the *Jama'at*, regarding the progress of which, the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} had given the good news, and it was the *Jama'at* within which he had said that *Khilafat* was to be re-established in the latter days.

The Promised Messiah^{as} writes:

"God's Word informs me that many calamities will occur and many disasters will descend on the earth—some during my lifetime and some after I have gone. And He will promote and advance this *Jama'at* to the full. A part of it will happen at my hands, and some after me." [Al-Wasiyyat]

He goes on to say:

"Thus He manifests two kinds of Power. (1) First He shows the Hand of His Power at the hands of His Prophets themselves. (2) Second, when with the death of a Prophet, difficulties and problems arise and the enemy feels stronger and thinks that things are in disarray and is convinced that now this *Jama'at* will become extinct and even members of the *Jama'at*, too, are in a quandary and their backs are broken, and some of the unfortunate ones choose paths that lead to apostasy, then it is that God for the second time shows His Mighty Power and supports and takes care of the shaken *Jama'at*." [Al Wasiyyat]

He says further:

"... it is essential for you to witness the second Manifestation also, and its Coming is better for you because it is everlasting the continuity of which will not end till the Day of Judgment. And that second Manifestation cannot come unless I depart. But when I depart, God will send that second Manifestation for you which shall always stay with you just as promised by God in *Brahin-e-Ahmadiyya*. And this promise is not for my person. Rather the promise is with reference to you, as God [addressing me] says: I shall make this *Jama'at* who are your followers, prevail over others till the Day of Judgment." [Al Wasiyyat]

So by the Grace of Allah, the Exalted, for the last 105 years we have been seeing Allah fulfill this promise of His. The *Jama'at* went through all kinds of periods of difficulties, but by the Grace of Allah, the *Jama'at* kept moving forward at a very considerable speed along its trajectory of success and achievements.

If the enemy tries to impose upon the *Jama'at* a period of tyranny and brutality in one country, Allah counters by opening up for the *Jama'at*, in another country, extraordinary ways and means for progress. But not only this, even in the country in which difficulties are created for us, there too, Allah continues to strengthen the faith of the members of the *Jama'at*. And then, when I see this and experience it in my own person, that despite all my weaknesses, how Allah, the Exalted, enables the *Jama'at* to continue to march forward on the grand and expansive freeways of success and achievement, faith increases even more in Allah, and belief in His promises continues to become yet more perfect and complete.

Certainly it is the invisible Hand of Allah which continues to push the *Jama'at* forward more and more. And whomsoever Allah will make the *Khalifa*, regardless of what the condition of that person maybe, He shall continue to bestow upon him His Help and Support. *Insha Allah!*

And Allah demonstrated His practical and manifest support and Signs immediately upon the establishment of *Khilafat-e-Khamsa* - the fifth Successorship to the Promised Messiah^{as} - and made it clear for all to see that the prophecy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} and the statement of his true and ardent devoted servant, the Promised Messiah^{as}, is indeed a Divine Decree that the *Khilafat* in this Second Manifestation of Islam in the latter days shall last forever. And that this System shall continue to function in the future also. *Insha Allah!*

But we need to keep in mind the fact that Allah has mentioned some characteristics of those who can benefit from the blessings of *Khilafat*. Allah has drawn a complete sketch of all these things in the verses of the Holy Qur'an that I recited and it is necessary that those who wish to draw benefit from the blessings of *Khilafat* fulfill these requirements.

Allah, the Exalted, says, "The response of the believers, when they are called to Allah and His Messenger in order that he may judge between them, is only that they say: 'We hear and we obey.'" (24:52)

We heard and we obeyed.

Allah says, "These are the people who shall achieve success." (24:52)

These are the ones who shall accomplish success.

So we can see that here the talk is not just of pure worship and performance of some religious rituals. But rather, as is the claim made by the Holy Qur'an, that while on the one hand it details the duties and obligations a person owes to God, there, also, are detailed all the duties and obligations that a person owes to God's creatures.

The Holy Qur'an lays out also a social system and a governmental system. The Holy Qur'an provides a complete system to govern all spheres of human life.

So here, there is a warning for those people also who take their worldly disputes and affairs in front of the courts of the country despite the fact that a system exists in the *Jama'at* where an attempt is made to resolve these disputes and make whole their affairs based on the *Sharia* and teachings of the Holy Qur'an - especially the affairs that relate to the family disputes and disputes involving husband and wife. There are other similar such things also and the ill intent of such people becomes manifest when at first they refuse to use the system of the *Jama'at* and instead go the courts of the country. But if they lose their case or fail to get what they had hoped for from the courts in the country, then they come back wanting to present their cases in the *Jama'at* system. These are the things that manifest such a person's weakness of faith.

Allah, the Exalted, says that a *momin*, a true believer, is the one who settles his or her affairs in accord with the dictates of Allah and His Messenger. And the system of the *Jama'at* does indeed try, and it ought to try, that their decisions should be according to, and based upon the decisions of Allah and His Messenger's decisions.

I want here also to warn that part of the system of the *Jama'at* which does not take the necessary care to go into looking in depth at the affairs given over to them for decision; and they fail to render a decision in accord with the requirements of the teachings of Allah and His Messenger. Such people commit a sin themselves and become the cause of driving people away from the system of the *Jama'at* and from *Khilafat* also.

Allah has made it the duty of *Khilafat* to provide decisions in conflicts between people based on justice. Nowadays the *Jama'at* has grown to such an extent by the Grace of Allah that it is not possible for the *Khalifa* to reach every place and involve himself personally in every decision. And as the *Jama'at* shall continue to make progress, such difficulties shall continue to grow.

So those officeholders who have been appointed for the purpose of providing these decisions and settling these disputes, if they will not perform their duties keeping in mind the fear of God and based on the demands of *taqwa*, righteousness, they shall be bringing the *Khalifa* of the time also into disrepute and shall become in the sight of God, sinful themselves, and also be making the *Khalifa* of the time a sinner in front of Him.

So I counsel especially the *Qazis* and those officeholders and *Ameers* who are given the task of making such decisions that they should hold fast to the demands of justice and thus be the cause of strengthening the institution of *Khilafat* and they must try their utmost to do this and achieve this. Otherwise these are the people who, while being officeholders, yet will be the cause of making the roots of the institution of *Khilafat* hollow.

So, yes, Allah has declared as successful those who try to do all they can purely for the sake of Allah, and try to carry out and fulfill the dictates of the system of the *Jama'at* and the directives of the *Khalifa* in order to win the pleasure of Allah. But I also ask all those who are given this duty of making the decisions, including the *Ameers* and the *Qazis*, I say to all of them, that you too must work in accord with the dictates of Allah and His Messenger. They must not do any such thing that will take you away from the demands of justice, and which may be removed from the requirements of *taqwa*, righteousness. Try your utmost to fulfill the demands of being the representatives of the *Khalifa* of the time. If you do not do this, a time will definitely come when you will be caught and apart from the worldly actions that will be taken against you, that of course will happen, but you will also have to face the punishment of God.

This is a very frightening thing for any officeholder to contemplate and it needs to be kept in mind. Becoming an officeholder does not just mean occupying an office, it entails taking on a very big responsibility.

Then Allah, the Exalted, says that if you claim to believe in God, and claim to believe in His Messenger, and claim to have accepted and have declared your faith in the Promised Messiah^{as}, and if you claim to give preference to the requirements of the faith above all worldly concerns, then you must obey every command and decision of Allah and His Messenger. Whatever the Imam of the Age has told you to do, you must carry it out. And you must follow all the directions that are given to you by the *Khalifa* of the time. And if you do not do this, your swearing oaths and making tall claims that you will do this and that, will be meaningless. Allah knows the condition of your hearts. He knows full well what it is that you are saying and what it is that you are doing.

At every *Ijtimā*, we get together, we take the oath that we shall consider it our duty to carry out whatever good things the *Khalifa* of the time asks us to do and yet we fail to abide and carry out some very small things even - more than that, we fail to make an effort to observe some of the directions contained in the Holy Qur'an and do not try to meet or attain the minimum standards that are required.

Let me give an example. Here, we just held the West Coast *Jalsa* and although there may be other things that will come to mind to be said later, for now, the example of the ladies is in front of me. I had drawn their attention to the fact that all our ladies must wear a modest and dignified mode of dress and that they should observe

the *hijab* and should cover themselves. This is an order of the Holy Qur'an. It is not an ordinary directive. The Holy Qur'an has expressly given this direction. And it should be acted upon. But after a short time I observed that there was no attention being paid to this. And some women, who perhaps had been forced to put on head coverings by the *Lajna* officeholders, just left their *burqas* in the mosque upon leaving and the cleaning crews were collecting these.

It is true that Islam has directed both men and women to observe modesty but the Promised Messiah^{as} has especially directed the women to take care of themselves in this regard because the looks of the men are heedless. And this directive has been given for the betterment of both men and women. No extraordinary expense is involved in acting on this injunction, nor is any great effort needed to carry it out; but because materialism and worldly concerns are predominant over people's thinking so they do not pay attention to these matters.

So Allah, the Exalted, says that if you will follow the directives and do the required deeds then you will achieve success. And if you fail to do the things required of you then Allah, the Exalted, says that know that the job of the Messenger is simply to convey the message and convey it in a manifestly clear manner. If you will act on the directives then you will become counted among those who have been guided, and be among those who have fulfilled the requirements of having taken the *Bai'at* and if not, then Allah knows everything. Do not be content on just this that you have become an Ahmadi or have been born in an Ahmadi household.

The Promised Messiah^{as} says that my *Bai'at* will provide no benefit to you if it is not accompanied by good actions.

Then, the observance of *Salat* is a fundamental divine directive which has been declared to be the very reason for the creation of a human being and yet, in this too, our very senior officeholders, show considerable laziness. There are some officeholders who, while they are outside their homes, can be seen to be very active and doing great work, and when they come here they offer their prayers also and with great focus and apparent fear of God, but their wives inform that they do not offer their prayers when they are at home.

So when a very important and essential directive of Allah is not being fulfilled, is not being acted upon, then the claim that we will do this or that is entirely useless. It is first necessary that you bring your own personal condition into order and then, when you become such as is acting upon every command of God, and you are making special efforts to win the pleasure of Allah, then alone can an Ahmadi be called one who is fulfilling the demands of, "we hear and we obey" and then alone can he be counted a true *momin*, a true believer. And when this is accomplished, and one continues, after having believed, to make progress in ones level of faith, and pays attention towards doing good deeds, then such people shall become worthy of benefitting from the bounties of *Khilafat*.

In other words, Allah has made this promise with those people, or we can say that such people alone will draw benefit from the system of *Khilafat*, and such people will gain safety, peace and security, the fear of such will be converted into peace and security, who will have faith and will be the doers of good deeds and will fulfill the demands of worship and who will stay away from every type of shirk or associating partners with God, and who will be grateful for this immense blessing and bounty of God which has been bestowed upon them in the shape of *Khilafat*.

As I said, Allah, the Exalted, has initiated this system of *Khilafat* in Ahmadiyyat and this system can not be initiated anywhere else. Ahmadis are indeed fortunate because, by accepting the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him), they have been blessed with the bounty of *Khilafat*.

So always remember that the Promise that Allah has made is not unconditional. It is conditional on certain things. And when these conditions are fulfilled, then, by the Grace of Allah, security will also be bestowed and the state of fear shall be changed into one of peace and the members of the *Jama'at* have experienced this many times.

Indeed, in these times, even the non-Ahmadis have seen and felt these things that how Allah arranges for the security and safety of the Ahmadis. I have mentioned this several times in the past. The condition that prevailed among the Ahmadis before the election for the 5th *Khalifa* took place, it was being felt by the non-Ahmadis too and some among them were sitting waiting to see what sorry state the *Jama'at* falls victim to.

But Allah, the Exalted, fulfilled the promise He had made to the Promised Messiah^{as} in such a wonderful manner that the world was left amazed. And through MTA, the non-Ahmadis also witnessed how amazingly and manifestly, the state of fear changed into one of peace and contentment.

A non-Ahmadi leader of some renown, a friend of an Ahmadi, said that although I do not believe you to be true, yet this I believe, after watching this whole affair, that the practical and manifest decree of God and His support is with you. So there are such people also who despite witnessing everything still insist on sticking to their heedless and obstinate ways.

The wave of tyranny that is blowing in Pakistan these days is an expression of the fact that Ahmadis are continuing to make gains and progress and they see the fields of our success continue to expand more every day and all their attempts to finish us never succeed. They continue trying to figure out how they should go about destroying us?

But I say to these people that, O enemies of Ahmadiyyat! Remember that our Lord, our Friend, is that God Who is the Possessor of All Powers. He will never allow you to succeed. The progress of Islam is now destined to take place through the Promised Messiah^{as}. The flag of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him) of Islam will now be raised in the world through the servants of the Promised Messiah^{as}, this flag will be raised now in the world by those who have firm faith in *Khilafat* on the pattern of prophethood, those who are attached to *Khilafat*, who have become the beads of the necklace that is the *Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya*, who have firmly gotten hold of the rope of Allah. So no effort of yours, and no misdeed or attack that you carry out, even if it be with the help of any worldly government, will be able to stop *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* from achieving its purpose nor will any such effort be able to stop the progress of *Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya*.

The members of the *Jama'at* should also remember that, as I said, treading on the paths of *Taqwa*, righteousness, establishing *Salat*, prayer, and advancing in financial sacrifices will continue to enable them to benefit from the bounties of *Khilafat*. So it is the duty of every single person that he make a full fledged effort so that by the Grace and Mercy of Allah, he should take a large share of these bounties.

Now I shall read some extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah^{as} which he wrote for those who will remain attached to *Khilafat*, or the *Jama'at* or who will benefit from the bounties of *Khilafat* and win the pleasure of Allah.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) says:

“And you, too, should partake of the Holy Spirit by compassion and by purifying your souls. Because without the Holy Spirit true *Taqwa* cannot be attained. And, totally shedding all base desires of the self, choose for the sake of winning the pleasure of God that path compared to which no path can be narrower and straiter. Don't fall in love with the pleasures of the world, for they take you away from God. Choose a life of austerity for the sake of God. The pain which pleases God is better than the pleasure which makes Him angry. And the defeat which pleases God is better than the victory which invites the wrath of Allah. Renounce the love which brings you nearer to the wrath of Allah. If by purifying your hearts you come to Him, He will help you whichever path you tread and no enemy shall ever be able to harm you. You can never ever win the pleasure of Allah unless you, relinquishing your desires, abandoning your pleasures, sacrificing your honor, disowning your wealth, discarding your life, bear such hardships in His way as make you suffer the pangs of death. But once you suffer such hardship, you will sit in the lap of God like a beloved child. And you will be made heirs of the truthful who have preceded you. The door of every blessing will be opened to you. But there are few who belong to this category.

God addressed me and said that *Taqwa* is a tree that should be planted in the heart. The very water which nourishes *Taqwa* irrigates the whole garden. *Taqwa* is a root without which everything is meaningless; and if it remains intact then nothing is lost. What benefit is there for a man in indulging himself in the useless activity of claiming with his tongue that he seeks God while he has no sure footing with his Lord. Look, I say to you truly and sincerely that ruined is he whose faith is tainted by even a hint of worldliness. Hell is very close to that soul all of whose intentions are not for God—rather some of them are for God and others are for the world. Thus if you have an iota of worldly adulteration in your intentions, all your worship is in vain.” [Al Wasiyyat]

Then the Promised Messiah^{as} says:

“But if you, in reality, die by killing your baser selves, then you shall appear in God and God shall be with you. And the house in which you live will be blessed and God's mercy will descend on the walls which are the walls of your house. And that city shall be blessed where such a person lives. If your life and your death, your every action and movement, and your kindness, and your anger are for God only and if, in any trouble or difficulty you do not put God to the test nor sever your relationship with Him—rather, under these trials, you step forward towards God—then I truly say to you that you will become a chosen people of God. You, too, are human as I am human and that very God Who is mine is yours. So don't lay waste your noble capacities. Look! if you fully incline towards God, then be reminded—and I say it in accordance with the will and pleasure of God—that, you shall become His chosen people. Let the Greatness of God take root in your hearts; and acknowledge His Unity not just with your tongues but also with your actions, so that God, too, practically shows His Mercy and Kindness to you. Refrain from malice and treat human beings with true compassion.

Adopt each and every path of righteousness for who knows from which of these paths you will be accepted?

Rejoice and be happy that the field of achieving nearness to God is vacant. Every nation is in love with the world and to what pleases God the world pays no attention. Now is the time for those who wish to enter this door that they, mustering all their strength, show their mettle and win the much coveted prize from God.

Don't think that God will let you go to waste. You are the seed which the Hand of God has sown in the earth. God says that this seed will grow and flower and its branches will spread in all directions and it will become a huge tree. So, blessed is one who believes in what God says and does not fear the trials which he suffers in His path. For, the coming of trials is essential so that God may try you to see who is true in his declaration of *Bai 'at* and who is false.”

Then the Promised Messiah^{as} says:

“God addressed me and said that I should inform my *Jama 'at* that those who believe and their belief is not adulterated with worldly considerations and is free from hypocrisy and cowardice and is not found wanting at any stage of obedience, such people are the favorites of God. And God says that indeed these are the ones whose station is that of Truth.”

May Allah enable all of us to fulfill all the wishes and desires that the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) had and enable all of us to establish a true and fully loyal connection with *Khilafat* and bestow upon us the ability to establish the highest standards of obedience and enable us to achieve the highest levels of our worship so that we all continue to be blessed with the bounty of *Khilafat*. *Ameen!*

THE SAYINGS OF HADHRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH I^{ra} ABOUT KHILAFAT

Appointing Khalifa is not Human but God's Function

Al-Fazl, May 24, 2010: Translated by Arifa Haleem

“Hadhrat Sahib’s *Al-Wasiyyat* all these things and for this purpose has got a point of God given wisdom pose there is no need of any about which I am going to explain you *Khalifa*. I do not even spit on in detail. Whosoever was chosen to be such a type of Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge of Allegiance is that in which the fourteen people (who were the plenipotentiary submission is rendered members and trustees of the *Sadr* and not a single command of *Anjuman Ahmadiyya*) were told, “You the *Khalifa* is violated.” collectively are *Khalifatul Masih*.”

Your decision is final and the same decision is final in the eyes of the government too. Then all these fourteen were bounded and made to take the Pledge of Allegiance at the hands of a person to accept your *Khalifa* and in this way you were all united. Not only these fourteen but the whole nation also had consensus on my *Khilafat*. Now whosoever goes against this consensus, he is opposing God Almighty.”

“The task for which God Almighty has appointed me, I very ardently swear to God Almighty that now not in any condition I can take off this garment of responsibility. If you or the whole world also goes against me, even then neither I care about it now nor will I care about it in future. So discharge your duty of this contract fully and truly, then see how rapidly you make progress and to what extent you become successful.” (*Hyaat-e-Noor* p. 390)

“It is said, the only duty of *Khalifa* is to lead prayer or to take oaths from others. Even a “*Mullah*” can do

“Not any one of you has given the garment of *Khilafat* to me but only God Almighty. I do consider it my duty to honor and respect it. The fact is I do not need the favor of your wealth and riches and I do not have the least wish in my heart that anybody extends me greetings or not. Your money that you were offering to me in the form of *Nazrana*, till April I used to pass it on to Maulvi Muhammad Ali but somebody mislead or made a blunder; he said, that this money belongs to us and we are its protectors. So only for gaining the pleasure of God Almighty I stopped passing on this money only to see what they would say. The person who said this, he did not commit a mistake, actually he disrespect-ed. He should repent again and again and if such people stop repenting, then the outcome will not be good for them.” (*Badr*, February 1, 1912)

“Some people say we do not talk about your authority but we discuss about the powers of the next *Khalifa* but you do not know that he might be much better than (-) and Mirza Sahib.” (*Khutba Eidul Fitr Badr*, October 21, 1909)

Necessity and Importance of Khilafat.

“By holding the Holy Qur’an in my hands I swear by God I do not have any wish to become a *Pir* (spiritual guide). I never had this wish, but who knows about the Will of God Almighty. Whatever He wanted to do, He did it i.e. He got hold of all of you and united you at my hands.”

“Once somebody had a dispute with me and after that time I do not pass on such riches to them which are personally given to me. I deposit this money in an account and spend it at such place which leads to the pleasure of God Almighty. I do not depend on your money for my own person and for the people dependent on me because God Almighty has never ever made me dependent on any one. He provides me from His hidden treasures and gives me in abundance and I can still earn by that skill which God Almighty has given me. Remember it, I say it again that I am not dependent on your wealth. I do not demand anything from you. If you send me something as a gift, I according to my own understanding

spend it for the pleasure of God Almighty. Then what could be that thing due to which I could have wished to become a *Pir*. Now whatever God wanted, He did so. In this case neither you have the power to do anything nor anyone else. That is why you should learn to be respectful because this is the blessed way for you to hold fast to this Rope of Allah. This is also a rope of God Almighty which has united all of your different sections, so keep on holding to it tightly."

Khalifa Cannot be Removed

"Keep it in mind that you do not have the power of removal. If you find any fault in me, let me know but take care of respect and do not let it go. Man does not appoint a *Khalifa*. This is done by God Almighty Himself. So if I was made *Khalifa* then God has made me so due to His own planning and reasoning and He made me *Khalifa* for your welfare. No power can remove the chosen *Khalifa* of God Almighty, so no one among you has got the ability and power of removing me. If God Almighty has to remove me, then He will cause me death. So entrust this matter to Him. You do not have the authority of removal. I am not thankful to any one among you. A liar is that person who says that we have appointed the *Khalifa*. Even this word causes me pain. Someone said that this is the age of parliaments and this is a constitutional government. Even in Iran and Portugal there is constitutional government. Turkey has got Parliamentary system. I say that whosoever considers this Movement a parliamentary and constitutional one even he should also ask His forgiveness. Don't you know what comfort Iran has gained from a parliament and what benefits it has contributed to the others and what type of sleep the Turks have slept after having parliament? What

benefits the Iranians got? How many people were destroyed in front of Mohammad Ali Shah? Now the succeeding ones are getting ultimatums." (Badr, Feb. 1, 1912).

A Significant Speech on the Topic of Khilafat

In an address in Ahmadiyya Building Brandrith Road Lahore *Khalifatul Masih I*¹ said: "With His own blessings God Almighty through our king, the Promised Messiah² after Hadhrat Muhammad³ united you. Then after his demise through me He saved you from contention. Appreciate this blessing and do not involve yourself in useless discussions. Even today I have seen somebody saying; that there is contention about *Khilafat*, it was the right of somebody else but was given to somebody else."

"I do not understand what moral or spiritual benefit you get from such kind of discussions. God Almighty appointed the *Khalifa* according to His Will and made your heads bow down before him. Even if after this working of God you raise objections about it, then it will be your great foolishness. I have repeatedly said to you that the Holy Qur'an has revealed that it is not man's work to appoint a *Khalifa* but it is in the hands of God Almighty. Who appointed Hadhrat Adam⁴ a *Khalifa*?"

God Almighty said,

إِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً

The angels objected about this *Khilafat* of Hadhrat Adam⁴ by saying: Hazoor! he will be:

مفسد في الأرض

مفسد الدار

But what fruit did they get by raising objection? Read it in the Holy Qur'an that at last they had to prostrate before Adam. So if any one objects about me and if the one who objected is even an angel I will tell him that it is better to bow down before the *Khilafat* of Adam and if he makes

إِنِّي وَاسْتَكْبَرُ

his habit and becomes Iblis, then he should remember what fruit did Iblis get from the opposition of Adam. I repeat it again that even if someone by becoming an angel objects to my *Khilafat*, then the blessed nature will take him towards

اسْجُدُوا لِلْأَدَمِ

and if he is Iblis then, he will leave this *Darbar* (court)."

"Then the other *Khalifa* was Hadhrat Dawood⁵. "O, Dawood! We made you *Khalifa* on the earth." Dawood⁵ was also made the *Khalifa* by God. His opposing people caused agitation to such an extent that those anarchists attacked his castle and plunged into it but who could see noble end by opposing the one whom God had made *Khalifa*."

"I swear by God that God Almighty has appointed me *Khalifa*."

"This is (-) which has pleased my heart. I have prayed a lot for its founders and helpers and I believe

that my supplications have touched the heavens. So it pleased me very much to stand in (-) and when I come to this city, I feel happy to be here. In the same way God Almighty has appointed me a *Khalifa*.”

“If someone says that *Anjuman* has appointed me *Khalifa*, then he is a liar. Such type of ideas take one to the extent of destruction. Beware of these ideas. Listen to it again that neither any man nor any *Anjuman* has made me *Khalifa*. I do not consider any *Anjuman* capable of making me *Khalifa*. So neither any *Anjuman* has made me *Khalifa* nor do I have any value of its appointing me a *Khalifa*. I do not even spit on its abandoning. Now no one has got the power to snatch away the mantle of *Khilafat* from me.” (*Hayat-e- Noor P. 562, 563*)

“Now the question is who has got the right of *Khilafat*? Mahmood is very dear to me and is the son of my master and benefactor, then as regard to son-in-law Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan^{ra}, and in regards to his father-in-law Nasir Nawab Sahib, do they have the right of *Khilafat* or is it the right of Hadhrat *Amma Jan* who is the wife of Hadhrat Sahib. These are the people who could have got the right of *Khilafat* but how strange it is that those people who discuss about *Khilafat* and say someone else has usurped their right, they do not think that all of these are my obedient and loyal ones and they did not present their claim before them of---The offspring of Mirza Sahib are heartily devoted to me. I truly say that my loved ones, Mahmood, Bashir, Sharif, Nawab Nasir, and Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan are so much obedient to me that no one among you is seen to be like that.”

I do not say it in any context but I announce the fact that they love me for

the sake of God’s pleasure. I have heard this many times from the mouth of my wife that I am your maid servant. Mian Mahmood is an adult so ask him about his real submission. Yes an objection raiser can say that he is not a truly obedient person but I know it very well that he is truly obedient to me. He is such an obedient person that not a single person among you is like him. Moreover the family of Mirza Sahib has been very obedient to me and every one of them is devoted to me and I cannot even imagine that they can have any whim about me.”

“Listen! I never had this wish in my heart to become a *Khalifa*. When I was not a follower of Mirza Sahib even at that time I had the same dress. I went to the nobles and went there in a distinguished position and even then I had this same dress. As a follower I lived in the same condition. After the demise of Mirza Sahib whatever God Almighty did, that was not even in my imagination but it was God’s Own Will and He did what He considered the best. He made me your *Imam* and *Khalifa*. Those who in your view had the right, they were also made to bow down before me. Now who are you to object? If you have got any objection then go to God and object to Him but be aware of the curse of this rudeness and disrespect. I am not a flatterer of any one and also do not need greetings of any one. I am not dependent on your gifts and nourishment, so I seek refuge in God Almighty that even such a whim should never occur in my heart. “

“God Almighty has blessed me with a deep hidden treasure. No man is aware of it. My wife and children are not dependent on any one of you. God is Self Sufficient and takes care of them. What care will you give to others?”

وَاللَّهُ الْغَنِيُّ وَأَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ

Whosoever is listening, should listen very carefully and the one who is not listening, the others should convey to him that those who object that *Khilafat* has not been given to the deserving person, this is the belief of the *Rafidis*. Repent about it. To whom God Almighty has considered the deserved one, He by His Own Hands made him the *Khalifa*. Whosoever opposes it; he is a liar and wicked. Be submissive and obedient like an angel and do not become Iblis.”

“As I have just said it is a heretical doubt when you start discussing about *Khilafat*. A complaint should be made to God Almighty that a resident of Bhera has become a *Khalifa*. Someone says what does a *Khalifa* do? He only teaches the boys. Someone says he is a lover of books and remains absorbed in them. You may find thousands of faults in me, these will not affect me but they will go to God who has made me *Khalifa*. These people are just like heretics.”

No one can hinder the working of *Khilafat*

“I have studied the Holy Qur’an and Hadith from the teacher and I accept them whole heartedly. My heart is full of the love of Qur’an and *Hadith*. I spend thousands of rupees on buying *Seerat* Books. It is known by the study of the books and this is my belief when God wants to do

something nobody can stop Him from doing so.”

“Now listen further!”

ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاكَ خَلِيفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ

God Almighty appointed all of you *Khalifa* on this earth. This *Khilafat* has got a different color. So when it is in the hands of God Almighty to make a *Khalifa* then no one has got the power to create a hindrance in His way.”

“If you agree then you should be thankful and if not then the medicine of patience is available. In spite of my illness which makes it difficult for me even to stand up, I take this opportunity and make you understand that *Khilafat* is not like a soda water bottle, easily available from the shop. You cannot get any benefit out of this dispute. Neither any one is going to make you *Khalifa* nor can anyone become *Khalifa* in my life. When I die, then that person will become a *Khalifa* whom God Almighty will choose and He Himself will make him stand as a *Khalifa*.”

“Look! My supplications are being heard even in the heavens. My Master responds and accomplishes my works even before my supplications. To fight with me means to fight with God Almighty. Abandon such things and ask forgiveness from Him. Be patient and wait for some days then whoever will succeed me, he will settle the matter with you the way God wants.”

“Listen! You have three types of controversies. First they are about those matters and issues about which Hadhrat Sahib has already decided and whosoever goes against his decision is not an Ahmadi. Those things about which Hadhrat Sahib has not spoken, you do not have any right to talk over

them until and unless you get permission from our court. So do not give your opinion until and unless the *Khalifa* does not speak or the *Khalifa* of the *Khalifa* does not come in this world. Do not comment on the things about which our *Imam* and the followers have not written anything. Do not dare to write about them otherwise your writings and papers will be thrown into the trash. If someone writes and says that if your pen cannot write should we also not write? In this case read Noorud Din, *Tasdiq Fasul Khitab, Abtal Aluhiyaat Masih*. I can write and very well write but it is God’s plan of action that has restrained me from doing so and I assure you that God Almighty has stopped me from doing so.”

“I advise you again, look at my old age and illness and also see your differences. Will they connect you with God Almighty? If it is not so, then listen to us and live in love with each other and lead your lives in this way that I should be as happy to see you as I was happy to see the mosque. As by entering the city I was happy to see the mosque. May on my departure I hear this voice that you all are one and live in love with each other. You should supplicate and I will also pray for you.”

وَبِاللّٰهِ تَوْفِيقِ

Thanks from Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih

“In the Holy Qur’an God Almighty says, “If you are thankful then We definitely will enhance Our bounties.” So to be thankful about the blessed bounties of God becomes the reason

of many more favors for a human being. Therefore as “*Tehdith-e-Ni’mat Ilahi*” also I thank God Almighty that He has been very Gracious to us.

Last year some stupid people tried to create turbulence in the community and distributed a tract called *Izhaar-e-Haq* among the *Jama’at* members in which objections were raised even about me. The intention of the writer of the tract might be to create a rift in the community, but God Almighty as a great supporter of His servants saved me and my community from this mischief. He supported and helped me in such a way that all the plans of the mischief mongers were invalidated and destroyed and the *Jama’at* was saved from every kind of shock. Its example was visible on the occasion of this year’s annual gathering. This was special support and victory of God that in spite of many opportunities and in spite of the publication of disorder spreading tracts, this year the attendance of people on the annual gathering was more than the usual and such type of love and sincerity was reflecting from their faces which by itself was explanatory in proving that *Jama’at Ahmadiyya* is safe from every evil effect and is protected.

Beside this different *Jama’ats* during this time demonstrated such examples of sacrifice which proved to be God’s special favor. Though this year there was an extra pressure of funds and *Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya* was under debt, yet the other *Jama’ats* very happily and willingly promised to pay all the debt and even gave a lot of money in cash. So as compared to the previous years this year the promises of three times more money were made and the amount was received. The total amount of this money is about eighteen thousand

which by looking at the condition of this small *Jama'at*, seems to be God's special grace. This Annual Conference falsified the thoughts even of those people who used to say Noorud Din has fallen from the horse. Once when there was a lot of hue and cry against *Khilafat*, then God Almighty made me see a dream that I am riding a horse and going to that place where there is no vegetation and the land is dry, then I started running the horse. The horse ran so fast that it became out of control but with the blessings of God Almighty my thighs did not move and I remained sitting very firmly on the horse. After running a long distance, it entered a meadow and in this meadow about half yard long vegetation was growing. As far as it could be seen, there was greenery everywhere. Even in this field the horse started running. When I reached in the middle then I woke up. I interpreted this dream that those people who say that he will fall down from the horse of *Khilafat*, they are liars. God Almighty will keep me firm on it and He will bless me with success also. This is the Grace of God that He fulfilled my dream and this year's gathering revealed its truthfulness. In spite of the efforts and opposition of the people and in spite of the publication of anonymous tracts, He supported me repeatedly and day by day enhanced love and sincerity in the hearts of *Jama'at*. He attracted their hearts and drew their attention towards me and blessed them with favour of submission and saved them from the effect of deceitfulness of the mischievous people.

Because God Almighty has now blessed us with His special Grace, so I consider it appropriate that I should thank God the Exalted by a general announcement and should also express about His bounty so that along with me the rest of the *Jama'at* should also

be part of this thanks and in exchange for giving of thanks may God the Exalted bless us with maximum support and according to His promise

لَئِنْ شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ وَلَئِنْ كَفَرْتُمْ إِنَّ عَذَابِي لَشَدِيدٌ ۝

i.e., if you show gratitude then I swear by My own self that I will also descend My own special favors on you. So in response to our gratitude which should be from all our *Jama'at* members may He shower special blessings on us. *Ameen*. The movement of

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

which is taking place in the West that is also worthy for thanking? So this humble person is also grateful to it." (Al-Fazl January 7, 1914.

The most significant event of the time of Khalifatul Masih I^{ra} was that in order to maintain the magnificent status of *Khilafat* he proved his courage and dedication in such a way that if according to the circumstances of that time it should be considered a unique example then it will not be an exaggeration. The people who were his rivals, they were active members of *Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya*. They thought that due to their services and higher academic qualifications, they have earned so much honor and dignity in the *Jamaal*, that even by wrongly interpreting the writings of the Promised Messiah^{as}, they have got the power to make the *Jama'at* follow them. Therefore based on this idea they tried to misrepresent the beliefs of the *Jama'at*. Probably their biggest attempt was that they

wanted to make *Anjuman* a ruling authority and *Khalifa* his subordinate. Their intentions were dangerous to this extent that if it was in their control, they were ready to remove the *Khalifa* from *Khilafat* but Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih^{ra} had such a strong hold that whenever he addressed the *Jama'at* to unveil the wrong behavior and waywardness of these people, his style was always so grandiose and majestic that nobody even dared to stand up and refute his any word. By listening to his commands the people used to settle down like foam and they did not have any other option except to apologize. In order to establish the glory of the status of *Khilafat*, the *Jama't* owes so much to him that it cannot be forgotten till the Last Day of Judgment, because God forbid if at this time of dangerous big calamity they had staggered and even for a short time by being overpowered by their mischief had bowed down before them, then today the map of *Ahmadiyyat* would have been quite different. That grandeur of the Movement which it has achieved due to the establishment of *Khilafat*, surely it could not sustain if the Movement was merely an *Anjuman* like other *Anjumans* of the world but with the blessings and support of God Almighty he handled this falling *Jama'at* by saving it from the life of confusion and anxiety and strung it into the thread of unity. Due to this grand achievement he gave this precious lesson to the coming generations that they in the form of *Khilafat* have got a sacred trust of God and from His bounties have got a magnificent bounty. If you protected this sacred trust, and valued this great bounty then no power on earth will be able to hinder you from the way of progress and the flag of *Ahmadiyyat* will *Insha'Allah* go on waving over the whole world. (Hayat-e-Noor p.569)

KHILAFAT: THE GREAT UNIFIER

Mansura Bashir Minhas, Miami FL

In the microcosm of their existence, every Ahmadi Muslim can vouch for the immense blessings and rewards of allegiance to Khilafat. It is a special bond - one that all Ahmadi Muslims treasure - notwithstanding the bounds of time and space. Those enamored with the love of Allah, having pledged allegiance to the Imam of the Age - the Promised Messiah^{as}, experience a special bond with their spiritual leader, *Khalifatul Masih*.

The most outstanding characteristic of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* is a special connection that every Ahmadi feels for *Khalifatul Masih*. Despite being ubiquitous, this experience feels like a treasure for every one of us. Having the firm belief that the *Khalifatul Masih* is present in our lives as a guide and mentor provides immense consolation. For those born into Ahmadiyyat, this bond is part and parcel of our lives. We are attuned to having the spiritual guidance of *Khalifatul Masih* in every sphere of life.

However, it is amazing how new converts to Islam Ahmadiyyat instantaneously develop similar sentiments and passion. In some cases, their zeal and fervor even surpasses those who have been blessed since birth. These new adherents hold on to *Khilafat* like a newly found treasure, a badge of honor, which enriches their souls.

It was a great honor for my family to visit Guatemala recently and explore the inroads that Ahmadiyyat has made in this deeply Catholic land. At present, the Guatemala *Jama'at* is small by worldly standards, but one is

fascinated at what has been accomplished so far - so much, so soon. The small army of believers has embarked on a new beginning, having discovered the true message of Islam Ahmadiyyat, but they are not merely complacent at that the Guatemala *Jama'at* is imbued with a sense of urgency to spread the beautiful message to the rest of the country and beyond - to Latin America.

Guatemala lies at the crossroads of North and South America. It is virtually a gateway to Latin America that currently remains vastly unexplored. Compared to the rest of the continents of the world, there is a huge opportunity and many lands have yet to be introduced to Islam Ahmadiyyat. It was exactly a century ago, that Ahmadiyyat marched ahead and entered new frontiers in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and North America. The current century truly belongs to this part of the world.

The Friday Sermon of Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} delivered in California in May 2013 was historic and alluded to this trend. Hazoor^{aba} elucidated how the Spanish speaking community is all set and prepared to embrace Ahmadiyyat. The immigrants from South America residing in the United States are favorably attuned to Islam due to their

shared heritage with the earlier Muslims of Spain. This is a distinction that makes the task of *Tabligh* easier among this segment of the world population. In contrast, bulk of the Caucasian population has either negligible or negative impression about Islam due to a lack of exposure. This impression was strengthened as we visited Guatemala.

Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih IVth inaugurated the *Baitul Awal* Mosque in Guatemala in 1989 on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations of Ahmadiyyat. His prayers for the country and special attention have born fruit. Baitul Awal has the honor of being the first Mosque in this nation of 14 million.

Anticipation of Khalifatul Masih V's^{aba} expected visit in the spring of 2014 infused the local Jamaat with extreme fervor. It was spiritually rejuvenated and has put utmost efforts in the complete refurbishment and remodeling of the mosque to welcome the *Khalifa* of Islam. The amount of work undertaken is immense and near completion. In Guatemala, numbers don't really matter and become irrelevant. This *Jama'at*, though small by worldly standards, can boast of achievements that surpass many bigger *Jama'ats*.

Another outstanding and unique feature that sets this *Jama'at* apart is how families and friends provide their Ahmadi kin full support and cooperation. Many have yet not accepted Ahmadiyyat, yet they are as passionate and committed to serve. Displays of

love and affection for true Islam, Ahmadiyyat are in abundance. Guatemala *Jama'at* is mostly comprised of locals, who have never met Hazoor^{aba} but their commitment and respect for *Khilafat* is awe-inspiring. Their faces literally radiate and light up upon the mention of Hazoor.

Guatemala *Jama'at* is deeply committed to the service of humanity. Humanity First Guatemala, under the dynamic leadership of Brother David Gonzales has made huge inroads in Guatemala society, having served in various sectors of the society. Through various initiatives including Gift of Sight, Gift of Knowledge, Gift of Health, Humanity First Guatemala has collaborated with medical and surgical teams in United States to bring the gifts of health, sight and knowledge to the local, deprived Guatemalans who have virtually no access to basic amenities of life. The outstanding service to humanity is being increasingly recognized by the government and authorities who are now willing to expand their collaboration with HF Guatemala due to its positive yields in the fields of medicine and education.

Latin Americans are increasingly turning away from Catholicism. This apathy leads to a spiritual void that can be nourished by recognizing the truth in the balanced and rational message of Islam. Talk to any convert to Islam from Catholicism, and their prime reason for conversion is the ability to rationalize and understand the religious doctrines with logic.

There is a dire need to capitalize upon this renewed interest amongst Catholics who are seeking alternatives. These are people of faith and they will need something to nourish

their souls. Islam can provide an ideal and comforting alternative as they drift away from Christianity. In the United States, we see many Muslim organizations trying earnestly to attract these Latinos. Some have developed strategies like exclusive telephone hotlines in Spanish and offering free Spanish translated Qur'ans. Such measures are met with initial success and do capture the intrigue of Latinos, but they fail to make any strong headway in the long run because keeping the new converts integrated and satisfied becomes an arduous task.

This challenge stems from a lack of a unified voice and an increasing bickering amongst different Muslim groups. The assimilation process of new converts is hindered because of a failure to adopt any cogent and sustainable strategy in *Tabligh*. Also, these are times of great disillusionment among Muslims, especially the youth, who are most likely to oscillate between the extremes, either too radical or too averse to faith. In such tumultuous times, it is hard to imagine how new converts can remain integrated without challenges.

I have personally met many new converts to Islam, who face this dilemma. They are fully convinced of the beauty of Islam, yet they have failed to forge a close bond with any organization due to the lack of unity and discipline. Their prime concern is the disparity between the message of Islam and its implementation. On the contrary,

converts to Ahmadiyyat mostly recount different experiences. They experience a sense of unity, which stems from an unwavering commitment to *Khilafat* - a source of peace and tranquility. These new adherents cherish their newly found love - their spiritual leader, Khalifatul Masih^{aba}. This profound commitment becomes awe-inspiring, even for those who are born into Ahmadiyyat, compelling them to re-examine and renew.

Opponents of Ahmadiyyat undermine its achievements by stressing that it is a very small *Jama'at*, not representative of the faith of Islam that is followed by a billion plus people. However, their failure to promulgate any rational strategy to counter the propaganda against Islam or formulate a rebuttal to the detractors within Islam (who have hijacked its peaceful narrative and are hell-bent upon bloodshed and violence) sends a clear message about the truth of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

To honor those affected by the Boston Marathon tragedy last year, The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community held Muslims for Life Blood drives in Boston on April 11. The City of Boston and the Boston Athletic Association agreed to partner with only one Muslim organization for the blood drives. The perpetrators of the tragedy were Muslims and this partnership proves that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is committed to the true message of Islam and working towards peace.

The success of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is derived from allegiance to *Khilafat*. The fate of those who shunned this blessed scheme is apparent. Despite their knowledge and better worldly status,

lack of a spiritual leader has hindered their progress and they have failed to achieve any commendable successes. Disregarding the Divinely Guided *Khilafat* never allowed the *Lahori Jama'at* to thrive and prosper.

Gauging from the history of *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya*, it appears destined to march towards new frontiers. The first century witnessed unprecedented success in many continents; time is now ripe for the spread of Islam Ahmadiyyat in other continents under Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. *Allah Ta'ala* guides and supports every *Khalifa* and endows them according to the needs of their era.

It is imperative that the Ahmadi Muslims remain bonded with *Khilafat*. Allegiance to this Divine institution will help them excel. Guidance, support and blessings of *Khalifatul Masih* must be cherished. Seeking his wisdom allows adherents to thrive and become productive citizens of their respective countries. They are able to carry forward the mission of Ahmadiyyat and spread the true message of Islam, no matter wherever they are. What a contrast from other Muslims who are confounded and fail to recognize their national and spiritual obligations due to an inability to understand the true meaning of Islam.

May Allah enable us to continue reaping the blessings of *Khilafat*. May we remain steadfast and bonded with the sacred institution. May we witness the success of Islam under the esteemed and dynamic leadership of Khalifatul Masih V. May Allah strengthen his hands as Ahmadiyyat continues to prosper and flourish. *Ameen*.

MUHAMMAD^{saw} MESSENGER OF PEACE EVENT

Hafeez Ur Rehman, MD, President Albany Jama'at

Alhamdolillah Albany *Jama'at* held their Muhammad^{saw} the Messenger of Peace (MMOP) event at Interfaith center of SUNY Albany on above date from 1 PM till 3 PM. The total attendance for this event was 55 people. Forty were guests and 15 were our community members. Among the guests we had teachers, students, local businessmen, pharmaceutical reps, doctors and members of the clergy. One of the speakers for our event was a high school teacher (Mrs Christine Sipperly-Bult) who spoke about Prophet Muhammad^{saw} treatment of women and that of poor and needy. She gave many quotes from the Holy Qur'an and *Hadith* in her speech which was very incredibly nice to hear. The other speaker was a young American who is learning about Islam Ahmadiyyat and he spoke about the early life of Prophet Muhammad^{saw} and his last sermon (the Farewell address) He spoke with great passion and energy which everyone liked very much. These speeches were verified and checked by me for accuracy prior to the event.

I spoke on different faith inspiring incidents of the life of our beloved Prophet Muhammad^{saw} stressing the importance of the fact that he was a source of mercy for every one. Abraham Rehman (*Qaid* Albany) read few verses of *Qaseeda* in melodious voice and it was translated by Brother Khalid Rasheed. The English translation of the verses of the Holy Quran were read by Brother Noah Ahmed Quick.

The hall was decorated with large and beautiful banners. These banners were , Muhammad^{saw} Messenger of Peace, Love for All Hatred for None and Muslims for life. We had two tables with different books and pamphlets. At the entrance of our hall we had a registration desk. our guests were very pleased to see the spiritual atmosphere and our peaceful message. They had many doubts about our beloved Prophet and with this conference they were clarified, *Alhamdolillah*. Many people stayed for longer time than expected to carry on with the conversation about Islam and Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. At the end of the event we held a question and answer session and served our guests with soft drinks, coffee and snacks.

I had written a letter to Hazoor for the success of this program prior to the event and requested prayers for our volunteers. The interfaith center at SUNY has a small place dedicated for Muslims to pray so our congregation did our *Salat* there and thanked Allah Almighty for successful completion of our event. I am very thankful to our volunteers who spent countless hours planning for this event and serving during and after the event. May Allah Almighty bless them all and reward them richly.

KHILAFAT: A SOURCE OF PEACE

Saiyed Burhan A. Qaderi

Ever since mankind surfaced in the earth, they are in a constant state of turmoil. They are continually searching for peace. In the divine scheme of Allah, for the spiritual, physical, and temporal guidance of the mankind, prophets came from time to time, culminating in the appearance of the Master Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. One of the functions of prophets was to bring peace to the humanity. The Holy Prophet Muhammad Mustafa^{saw} brought the final message of peace for the entire world when he was declared by Allah as a mercy to entire mankind (Holy Quran 21:108). To continue the mission of the prophet (one being the peace), Allah appointed **Successors or Khalifa**. This is according to the Quranic verses, I am about to place a vicegerent in the earth (Holy Quran 2:31) and the verse *Istikhlaf* which is: Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will, surely, make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will, surely, establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will, surely, give them in exchange security and peace after their fear: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoso disbelieves after that, they will be the rebellious. (Holy Quran 24:56).

Disturbance of peace occurs for various reasons such as, ego, dominance of one individual, or a nation over others, resulting in wars, the communal disturbances and wars due to religious differences. It appears religion is top most of all the sources

for the disturbance of peace. It is a tragic irony that much bloodshed has occurred in the name of religion whose very purpose was the restoration of peace between different religions and warring factions (Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad^{rh} – Murder in the Name of Allah and Holy Quran 49:10). The Holy Quran is replete with verses for restoration of peace and justice among various factions of people. For instance it says—no compulsion in matters of faith (Holy Quran 2:257), places of worship belonging to different religions must be protected (Holy Quran 22:41) and that there is no distinction between His messengers (Holy Quran 2:26). These and other verses in Quran brought to the world by the Holy Prophet of Islam^{saw}, provided much needed harmony in the strife torn world.

After the sad demise of the Holy Prophet of Islam^{saw}, the world in general and Islamic world in particular was engulfed in a big crisis. The companions of the Holy Prophet^{saw}, overcome with grief thought that the Holy Prophet^{saw} is probably not dead, but missing and will resurface again. At that time - a grave period in Islamic history; Hadhrat Abu Bakr^{ra}, the first *Khalifa* in Islam rose to the occasion and gave a masterful sermon (to the assembled companions); quoting the Quranic verse: **And Muhammad is but a Mes-**

senger. Verily, all Messengers have passed away before him. If then he dies or is slain, will you turn back on your heels (Holy Quran 3:145 and Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} (Roohani Khazain- Vol-22, Haqeeqatul Wohi, page-34). Thus Hadhrat Abu Bakr^{ra} played a pivotal role in the history of Islam being the first recipient of *Khilafat* as enunciated in the verse *Istikhlaaf*. In that capacity, he was supremely successful in restoring peace and tranquility to the then turbulent Muslim world following the Quranic verse **that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear(24:56)**. With him the *Khilafat-e-Rashida*, in other words the Rightly Guided Successors was begun in Islam. The first problem that threatened peace in his reign was the renouncement (of Islam) and rebellion by some tribes with the intention of abolishing the very institution of *Khilafat*. He was able to suppress the rebellion by promptly sending troops. Again, the most danger to *Khilafat* occurred when false prophets appeared and captured some Muslim territories. Hadhrat Abu Bakr's^{ra} swift action under divine help gave a decisive blow to such mischief mongers and the peace was restored. He later directed his energy against external dangers posing a threat to Islam. (*Majid Mian, The Ahmadiyya Gazette, USA, April/May, 2000, page 28*).

Thus in a short period, he achieved the great task of not only bringing peace to the Muslim world but also placed the institution of *Khilafat* on a firm foundation.

After the sad demise of the 1st

Khalifa, Hadhrat Umar^{ra} was elected as the 2nd *Khalifa*. His ten years of ministry was marked with phenomenal expansion in territory and all-round progress. He not only provided peace and security to Muslims, but also people of other countries, which his army had conquered. He was an able administrator; establishing the institution of *Majlis-e-Shura*, division of territory into provinces, and improved financial structure. These actions catered to the needs of diverse group of people in his jurisdiction, thereby maintaining peace and order in his state. The 2nd *Khalifa* was so much concerned about the welfare of his people that he used to go around the city of Medina to check upon the status of his people. For these reasons his *Khilafat* was called the golden period in Islamic history. Unfortunately, he was assassinated by a slave while offering prayer (Majeed A. Mian, The Ahmadiyya Gazette, USA, April/May, 2000).

The 3rd *Khalifa* Hadhrat Usman Ghani^{ra} was a pacifist at heart and action, and because of this he gave his life rather than encounter violence from the radical elements engendering peace in the community. The first six years of his *Khilafat* saw the expansion of the Muslim empire with its people enjoying peace and prosperity. However, the last six years of his *Khilafat* were beset with conflict and uprisings. To avoid bloodshed, he did not resort to fighting. His monumental work was the compilation of the Holy Quran, the recitation of which gave inner peace to countless Muslims. He was martyred while reciting the Holy Quran (Majeed A. Mian, The Ahmadiyya Gazette, USA, April/May 2000).

The 4th *Khalifa*, Hadhrat Ali^{ra} spent most of his energy in trying to bring peace to various groups with

vested interests. There was the clamor on the part of some people to avenge the martyrdom of Hadhrat Usman^{ra}. However, Hazrat Ali^{ra}, made restoration of law and order and peace, his top priority. This did not go well with those people, and a war erupted. Fortunately, it resulted in a victory for Hadhrat Ali^{ra}. A second war occurred which ended in arbitration to the dissatisfaction of a splinter group, who ultimately succeeded in murdering Hadhrat Ali^{ra} (Majeed A. Mian, The Ahmadiyya Gazette, USA, April/May 2000).

It should be realized war upon war was thrust upon Hadhrat Ali^{ra}, who did his level best to avoid it for the sake of peace and ultimately gave his life.

The glorious period of *Khilafat-e-Rashida* came to an end with the tragic death of Hadhrat Ali^{ra}. It was a short span of 30 years, but it demonstrated to the world, the fortitude and farsightedness of four successors in consolidating the institution of *Khilafat* and promoting peace and prosperity to the Muslims in particular and mankind in general. The supreme sacrifice exhibited by the *Khulafa-e-Rashedin* has no parallel in the annals of world history. *Khilafat* or the successor-ship was withdrawn because the Muslims had deviated from the path of righteousness, a prime requirement for continuation of *Khilafat*, as enunciated in verse *Istikhlaaf* and stated by the Holy Prophet^{saw}. It was to be replaced by a *Khilafat* operating on principles pre-

cept of prophethood (Ahmad bin Hambal, Musnad Ahmad page 273). This type of *Khilafat* applies to *Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya* due to the status of Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as}, the Promised Messiah as a Prophet, and the Ahmadiyya sect is the only sect whose conduct is in exact accordance with the principles of Islam.

With the advent of the Promised Messiah^{as} who was also the *Khatemul-Khulfa*; the founder of the Ahmadiyya sect in Islam, there dawned a new era of reason from aggression and conscience from coercion. He implemented the cardinal principle of no compulsion in religion to the fullest extent. He emphatically declared that wars in the name of religion are strictly forbidden. In this respect, he was also following the Hadith - *Yasnawool harb* (*Bukhari*), which means the Promised Messiah will not fight (for the sake of religion) and that battles would end at the time of the Promised Messiah^{as} according to Quranic injunction (Holy Quran 47:5). Thus freedom of choice can be exercised and that there is no apostasy for changing religion. (Holy Quran 3:145). These went directly against the thinking of Muslim divine and *Mullahs* who used *Jihad* as a pretext to wage war and incite terror. The *Jihad* has wrought much misery and bloodshed and tarnished the image of Islam. The Promised Messiah^{as} did a great service to Islam and humanity through his declaration that *Jihad* for the purpose of conversion and/or against just ruler is forbidden. He explained the complex concept of *Jihad* in a lucid manner. The root of the Arabic word *Jihad* means striving for a noble cause. There are two kinds of *Jihad*: *Jihad-e-Akbar* (or Greater *Jihad*) which is struggle to achieve inner peace. The other *Jihad* is called

Jihad-e-Asgher (or Lesser *Jihad*) which advocates fighting only in response to aggression when other avenues have failed. He has written many articles and books on this topic, notably the book *Government Angrezi and Jihad (Roohani Khazain- Vol.17)*. In essence, *Jihad* against a just ruler is forbidden. This is also directly followed from quranic injunction- **Obey Allah, obey the Messenger and obey Authority under whom you are placed (Holy Quran 4:60)** This way all the citizens regardless of caste and creed can live peacefully governed by a just ruler. The Promised Messiah^{as} worked tirelessly throughout his life to bring peace in a multicultural and multi religious society. In fact, his last book written just before his tragic death was, '*Paigham-e-Sulah*', i.e. the Message of Peace (*Roohani Khazain -Vol-23*) It was addressed to Muslims and Hindus, professing opposite extremes in terms of religious belief. It showed the ways of peace between the two parties and even went to the extreme when he asked the Muslims to stop killing cows (held sacred by Hindus) for food; if the Hindus desist from vilifying the Holy Prophet^{saw} and the religion of Islam.

Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as}, the Promised Messiah, the *Khatemul Khulfaa*, the great stalwart of Islam and the champion of peace passed away on May 26, 1908. At that ominous period in Islamic history, the members of *Jama'at Ahmadiyya* elected Hadhrat Maulvi Hakim Nooruddin^{ra} an eminent divine and devoted disciple to be the 1st Successor of the Promised Messiah^{as} with the title of Khalifatul Masih I^{ra}. Just as occurred at the time of sad demise of Holy Prophet^{saw} of Islam, there was a challenge to his position and the very institution of *Khilafat* by some promi-

nent members of the *Jama'at*. The *Khalifatul Masih* through masterful sermons, quoting from Quran, *Hadith* and the sayings of the Promised Messiah^{as} quelled the uprising. The Promised Messiah^{as} has clearly stated in *Al-Wasiyat (The Will-Roohani Kha-zain- Vol. 20)* that the second manifestation of the power of Allah will come after he is gone and that will stay forever. This is clearly in reference to the *Khilafat* after him. This way Hadhrat Maulvi Nooruddin^{ra} established the sanctity of *Khilafat* and the cloud of uncertainty over the question of duties of the *Khalifa* was removed. Thus his timely action prevented the *Jama'at* from disintegration and disruption. He occupied himself for the peace, security and well being of all members of *Jama'at* regardless of their rank. He would spend the whole night in prayers to alleviate the suffering for even one individual. He was a renowned physician. Here was a *Khalifa* who not only heals the soul but also heals the body-that is achieving both peace of mind and peace of body (Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, Hadhrat Maulvi Noorudeen, *Khalifatul Masih I^{ra}*, London Mosque).

After the death of *Khalifatul Masih 1*, opponents of *Khilafat* reared their head again. However, no body can disrupt the plans of Allah and accordingly Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad^{ra}, son of the Promised Messiah^{as} was elected to the high office of *Khilafat* as *Khalifatul Masih II^{ra}*. He initiated various schemes

directed towards consolidation, propagation, and humanitarian causes. All of these impinge upon the peaceful aspect, However, mention only will be made of his efforts directly related to peace. He rendered invaluable services to influenza victims after the 1st world war and laid the foundation of a hospital in Qadian which dispensed free services (*Mishkat*, vol.28, 2008, Qadian). The Ahrar group took up a mission to annihilate Ahmadiyyat. This brought fear and terror among members. The *Khalifatul Masih II^{ra}* was locked in prayer day and night for divine intervention. He initiated the grand *Tehrik-e-Jadid* Scheme. He assured the members that he is seeing the land beneath the feet of *Ahrar* vanishing (Hadhrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad^{ra}- Anwarul Oloom, Vol. 17, p 584). Soon after that Ahrar went in to oblivion. The *Jama'at* breathed a sigh of relief and peace was restored following the verse that **He will surely, give them in exchange security and peace after their fear.** The world witnessed the awesome power of Allah vouchsafed on the *Khalifa* and the *Ahrar* who started with a great fanfare to annihilate Ahmadiyyat disappeared in thin air (Anwer M. Khan, Ahmadiyya Gazette, USA, *Tehrik Jadid* issue- 2008). He emphasized the *Nizam-e-Wasiyat*, a divine scheme instituted by Promised Messiah^{as}, for alleviation of sufferings of less fortunate class of people; among other requirements (*Nizam-Nau, Anwarul Oloom*, Vol. 16, p. 600). His ministry spanning over a half century has been described as the golden period in the History of Ahmadiyyat.

After the demise of the 2nd *Khalifa*, his son Hadhrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad^{rh} became the 3rd *Khalifa*. He faced a very turbulent time when the Pakistan Assembly declared the Ahmadis

to be non-Muslims. He exposed the fallacy of this through his masterful exposition of the Ahmadiyya beliefs to the Pakistan Assembly. It was a moment of fear for the Ahmadis. Their houses were burnt, their belongings were ransacked, but when they come out after meeting the *Khalifa*, they had smiles on their faces. The *Khalifatul Masih* declared that there is no one who can snatch the smile from our faces. (Mishkat, Vol. 28, page 55 Qadian). As before, the *Khalifa* transformed the fear in the members to peace. His message of peace was not restricted to Ahmadis only; it extended to other people as well. His famous slogan, “*Love for All, Hatred for None*,” has been the harbinger of peace among various races and ethnicities.

The 3rd *Khalifa* Hadhrat Mirza Nasir Ahmadth passed away in 1982. Then another son of Mirza Bashir-uddin Mahmood Ahmad^{ra}, Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmadth became the 4th Successor and assumed the title of *Khalifatul Masih IVth*. He was confronted with the most serious problem when the Pakistan Government forbade the public usage of Islamic principles in daily life, effectively eliminating his function as a *Khalifa*. This necessitated his migration to London, England. From there, he operated with great zeal and fervor for peace and security for Ahmadis spread throughout the world. He had a particularly soft corner for distressed and down trodden people and instituted many schemes to alleviate their sufferings. His approach was that he would sacrifice first and then appeal to people (to sacrifice). His humanitarian work encompassed several regions in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. He later on established “Humanity First” organization

which has been rendering yeoman services through out the world. He steered the *Jama'at* out of danger from the fierce opposition. His *mubalahah* challenge (prayer duel) was a death knell to Zia ul Haq (President of Pakistan) and other Muslim divines opposed to the Ahmadiyya doctrine. This was a clear evidence in the 20th century about the Divine support for an Ahmadi *Khulafa* as was promised in verse *istikhlaf* for transforming fear in to security and peace (Mishkat, Qadian Vo. 28 page – 28).

After the passing away of the 4th *Khalifa*, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{aba} the great grandson of Promised Messiah was elected as the 5th *Khalifa* on April 22, 2003. He is currently engaged in peaceful exposition of Islam to various government and media. He has asked its members to exercise restraint in the face of vicious attacks on the personality of the Holy Prophet^{saw} and Islam by people and the press of the west. They were asked to submit rebuttals through pen and other means of communication rather than resorting to violence (Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad^{aba} - *Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}*, (The Blessed Model of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} and the Caricatures Islam, International Publications, Tilford, UK). The *Khalifatul Masih* wasted no time in bringing the members of *Jama'at* to the lofty heights of spirituality and peace through his various sermons, particularly his invitation to join the blessed scheme of *Wassiyat*. Joining the

blessed scheme of *Wassiyat* will entail peace in this world as well as peace in the other world. In addition, a portion of money will address the need of less fortunate members in the society who are worried about their livelihood.

Last 100 years has shown that the *Khulafa-e-Ahmadiyyat* have been eminently successful in steering the members of the *Jama'at* spread all over the world, from turbulent times to peace. Peace will reign in Ahmadis as long as they attach themselves to the *Khalifa* which presently is the rope to Allah according to the Quranic verse: **hold fast together to rope of Allah and be not divided (Holy Quran 3:104).**

The final observation is that the teachings of the Holy Quran, disseminated by a divinely guided *Khalifa*, will bring much needed peace and harmony to a multi-religious and multi-cultural society of today.

HADITH

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "Start the fast with observing the new moon and terminate it with observing it. If because the sky is overcast (you are unable to observe it) complete thirty days of *Sha'ban* (and likewise of *Ramadan*)."

It is narrated in one of the *Hadith* in Muslim that if due to the sky being overcast you are unable to observe the moon then keep fast for thirty days.

(*Bukhari kitabussaum*)

ADVENT OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{as}

G H Qamar Baloch

The Ahmadiyyah Muslim Community USA hosted a joint conference of S VA, CVA, and N VA *Jama'ats* to celebrate Masih Mau'ood Day at Masjid Mubarak in Chantilly, VA on March 23rd, 2014.

Speaking on the occasion, Brother Ismail said that in all Divinely Scriptures, it has been prophesied about an advent of a Promised Reformer *Mahdi* for Muslims, Promised Messiah for Christians, Buddha for Bodh's, and Krishna for Hindus. He said that as a testimony eclipses of moon is that moon eclipsed on first night of *Ramadan* and sun eclipsed on 13th of *Ramadan* from Qadian to right through the Middle East in 1894. The Advent of the Promised Messiah was vindicated by the Signs of the Lunar and Solar Eclipses. Brother Ismail said that the Muslims' conditions were hopeless. Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} claimed on the basis of Divine revelation, which he received, that the prophecy has been fulfilled in his person. He also declared on oath that he is the Promised Messiah and *Mahdi*. The remarkable prophecy of the Signs of the eclipses and its fulfillment in our age bears eloquent testimony to the greatness of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}, he added. Initially, Muslim scholars defended Hadhrat Masih Mau'ood^{as} for his service in the defense of Islam. When Hazoor announced that he is the Promised Messiah and *Mahdi*, all of them became his enemies. They misbehaved, attacked, blamed and rejected him. He quoted the Promised Mesiah^{as} saying that Allah would bless Ahmadis with the second manifestation. He urged that we must be an embodiment of the

Khalifa. We should remain with the Khalifatul Masih and inculcate obedience to him as mandated. Hadhrat Masih Mau'ood's^{as} prayers were granted in the second manifestation of Hakim Maulana Noorud-Din, Khalifatul Masih I^{ra}.

A video on the companions of the Promised Masih^{as} right from Hakim Maulana Noorud-Din^{ra}, Sahibzada Abdul Latif Shaheed^{ra} to Mufti Muhammad Sadiq^{ra}; First Ahmadiyyah Missionary to the United States and their achievements was presented. A Question & Answer Quiz comprising the following 5 questions was conducted:

1- Why was Maulana Noorud-Din, Khalifatul Masih^{ra} referred to as *Hakim*? The answer was that he was a Royal or a Muslim Physician or Doctor. 2- What did his mother practice, when Hakim Noorud-Din was in the womb? The answer was that she was reading the Holy Qur'an. 3- How long was Sahibzada Abdul Latif^{ra} imprisoned? The answer was that he was imprisoned for four months. 4- How many years Mufti Muhammad Sadiq^{ra} propagated the message of Ahmadiyyat in Islam in the United States? The answer was that he preached Ahmadiyyat for 2 ½ years in the USA. 5- How many Ahmadis were converted by Mufti Muhammad Sadiq^{ra} in the USA? The answer was that he convert-

ed 700 Americans as Ahmadis.

Imam Rizwan Khan said that love with *Allah Ta'ala* should be like the love of Laila and Majnoon and Majnoon loved the street that Laila lived on and even the dog that lived on that street. The Promised Messiah^{as} had complete connection with *Allah Ta'ala*. Hazoor had great love for his family. When Nawab Mubarak Begum Sahiba went to Lahore, Hazoor wrote a letter to his daughter saying that I am sad without seeing you, bring your mother and come to me. Hazoor had great love for his family. By remembering them, Hazoor in fact loved *Allah Ta'ala*. Such was Hazoor's beautiful expression of love for his wife. Hazoor cared much for his daughters-in-law. It was the greatness of the Promised Messiah^{as} that he raised his children in accordance with Islamic teachings and prayers. Hazoor had prior knowledge from *Allah Ta'ala* about the greatness of his son Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad. Hazoor respected his family, sons, daughters and brothers. Hazoor had human affection. Despite strong connection with his family, Hazoor had staunch love and connection with *Allah Ta'ala*.

The function commenced by recitation of a verse from Holy Qur'an by Osama Ahmad with translation in Urdu. Urdu Poem of the Promised Messiah^{as} was read by Taimoor Ahmad with translation in English. The function was conducted by Kalimullah Kaleem, S VA President. The function concluded with silent prayers led by Kalimullah Kaleem Sahib.

Message of Hadrat Khalifatul Masih Al-Khamis's to Members of Majlis-e-Shura 2014

Dear Members of Majlis-e-Shura Pakistan

Assalam-o-alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu!

Today, you have gathered in Rabwah to represent your respective Jama'ats, so that you could together think about Jama'at's welfare and give suggestions to Khalifatul Masih after discussion. Thus, it is a very big responsibility that has been assigned to you by your respective Jama'ats. Members of Jama'at have selected you for this important institution with full confidence; which is the second important institute in Nizam-e-Jama'at, after Khilafat. So every member should try his best to fulfill his responsibility of being a representative. When your suggestions arrive to Khalifatul Masih after all this consideration, he accepts them in exact format because shura has recommended them with this thought and promise that members of Shura and office bearers will try to implement and act on them. I always have the same expectation from you. That is why, while accepting your suggestions I make a note with this prayer that may Allah enable you to do this. I am unhappy to say that some tarbiyat related suggestions have been presented by Jama'ats with the recommendation of related Nizarat to be presented in Shurah again and again. Even this year; Nizarat Islah-o-Irshad presented a suggestion relating tarbiyat which was presented last year, but it was not properly acted upon. Concise summary of this suggestion is that lectures and other programs of Khalifatul Masih, which are aired on MTA, every member of the Jama'at should be motivated to listen to them. I gave permission to do this but with a note that if your purpose is to do temporary discussion and show temporary embarrassment and if you are only doing this to forget this act later then you are not going to benefit from this. If you have to implement these suggestions, then members of shura and office bearer of shura should be answerable in case of no implementation. I had to write this unwillingly. If members of shura and office bearer of every level act on it, then according to my estimate 70% of the houses would listen to MTA and will be able to make a better connection with Khalifatul Masih. There is no doubt that by Allah's blessings a lot of members of Jama'at in Pakistan are connected with MTA, as I can tell from their letters, but we still need to make a lot of progress. But there are some office bearers who are not that much interested, they don't pay that much attention and they don't show that much willingness which ordinary Ahmadi members shows. What kind of example are these office bearers setting? Particularly in those cities where Internet is available, these people say that we have read it on Internet or we have read the summary or one of the friends had mentioned it that it's a very good program. There are a lot of factors for Jama'at progress in this world which are the reason in increasing the faith of Ahmadies. If those factors are also in the minds of office bearers, then it will be beneficial for office bearers in order to motivate the jama'at members. But if office bearers are not showing any interest then how can they tell

members of the Jama'at that which part of the program was important so you should listen to it. So office bearer should change their attitude.

Remember that in this age increase in faith and connecting to the Khilafat in the light of Promised messiah's teachings will only make the practical progress. Even if there is a big scholar or person who has achieved spiritual progress, if their connection with the Khalifatul Masih is not that strong then they will not be able to make any spiritual progress and Jama'at's progress will not be affected by that. May Allah Almighty give us strength to understand this discussion.

In last couple of weeks I gave Friday sermons on reforming oneself. The Office bearers are number one audience for this. As, all office bearers are not present in the Shura, I am giving this responsibility to the members of Shura that they should convey my message to every office bearers and they should act on it. We also have to work on reforming ourselves with vigor and passion. We should try to be an example for the members of the Jama'at. Due to the right attitude of office bearers and their exemplary behavior, members of Jama'at will be automatically attracted and they will pay attention towards reforming themselves. You have to elevate yourself to the level with prayers, Istagfaar and remembrance of Allah, where Allah will show his special mercy on you. We are also requesting Allah's blessing on us, which would take our spiritual condition to that level that we will be enjoying Allah's unlimited blessings. We will be also achieving "Makaam-e-Mehmood" for religious services. They should protect their ranks and also their Amanat. They should abolish their self-ego and they should preform their services only for the sake of Allah. They should be able to perform justice and they should be able to feel the pain of members of the Jama'at. Insha'Allah by the grace of Allah when at every level and every office bearers of the Jama'at will strive for this, then Jama'ats tarbiyat standard will improve day by day.

We will also improve our connection with Allah and opponents of the Jama'at will fail in their planning. Members of the Jama'at in Pakistan who are helpless and are facing painful conditions, they will see the blessings of Allah Ta'ala. Everyday and every night, I worry about you that our enemy's planning should not be successful. Yours and my prayers would combine and destroy enemy's planning.

So, come and promise that we will not only with words but also through our actions, will try to bring pure changes within ourselves which would allow us to gather Allah's blessings and would allow us to hear Allah's voice in full glory. Remember this Allah's help is very near. But I will say this again to achieve this we have to say **سُبْحَانَكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ** May Allah almighty enable not only office bearers but enable every Ahmadi that their thinking and actions flow in this direction with full force. And our blessings and prayers become a reason to observe Allah's blessings. May Allah be always with you and may He enable you to fulfill your promises and remove my concerns for you and may make this Majlis-e-Shura full of blessings. (Ameen)

A BRIEF REPORT ON THE PROCEEDING OF MAJLIS SHURA 2014

Delegates from all over the country meet to plan 2014-2015 Activities

Syed Sajid Ahmad

Majlis Shura of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA was held on April 11-13, 2014 at Baitur Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring MD. Most of the documents related to Shura were sent to delegates in advance through email. Delegates came from all over the country to attend.

First session of the *Majlis Shura* started on Friday April 11, 2014 after 3 PM with a reading from the Holy Qur'an by Missionary Salman Tariq.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, *Ameer* Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, pointed to the importance of holding strong the rope of Allah with a strong relationship with *Khilafat*. Coming together is a premier requirement for success. You have to come together like a "strong structure cemented with molten lead" (61:5). Holding fast to rope of Allah is the similar situation. Maintain the cohesion of *Jama'at*. Maintain defense against wrong. Maintain a strong defense against anti-Islam and anti-belief forces trying to eliminate our way of living; they are not going to succeed. Carry out your responsibilities in a way that we support each other. You should interact throughout the year like "strong structure cemented with molten lead" (61:5). If a disagreement breaks up the cohesion then it is not the right thing to pursue. We are blessed with intellectual powers. Opposite of "strong structure cemented with

molten lead" (61:5) is "each group rejoicing in what they have" (23:54, 30:33), that is, pursuing goals without thinking of collective benefit of Muslim community. These thoughts are not alien to us. Keep them in mind while moving forwards.

After confirmation of the minutes of the last *Shura*, implementation reports of last *Shura* decisions were presented. Secretaries presented annual reports of activities for their departments. Brief snapshots are listed below.

Dr. Zaheer Bajwa: National general secretary, arranged *Shura*, National *Amila* meetings and presidents' refresher course.

Hassan Hakeem: *Tabligh* department held national *Tabligh* conference. Held four outreach campaigns reaching out to thousands countrywide: Muslims for life, Muslims for peace, Muslims for loyalty, and peace through Messiah.

Nasir Malik: *Ta'lim* department sent its email newsletter regularly and managed scholarships awards.

Dr. Faheem Younus: *Tarbiyyat* department estab-

lished 200 *Salat* centers in 100 days.

Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah: Audio/video department added new titles in various categories including apps for handhelds.

Dr. Farooq Padder: *Rishta Natta* department continues to update their site. Held matrimonial programs at annual conventions attended by about 700 members. Held four workshops.

Dr. Khaled Ata: *Wasiyyat* department reported that over 42% of the earning members are enrolled in the *Wasiyyat* system.

Syed Sajid Ahmad: Publications department reported that Missionary Yahya Luqman has started work on the compilation of the history of the Ahmadiyya Community in the US. A team has started the translation of *Fiqh* Ahmadiyya.

The amibookstore.us shipped more than 17,000 books for outreach purposes and for *Jama'at* libraries.

Anwer Mahmood Khan: *Tahrik Jadid* department reported that the total collections were US \$ 2.028 Million, ahead of \$1.9 million figures for the last year by about 2.2 %. The total number of participants this year is 12,286, about two thousand ahead of last year.

Dr. Waseem Sayed: *Waqf Jadid*

department reported that almost 11,000 members, including 2,838 children, came forward to contribute more than 1.4 million dollars to the scheme.

Mir Daud Ahmad: Property department reported acquisition of properties in Philadelphia, New Orleans, Minneapolis, Lexington and Las Vegas during the year. Acquisitions are in progress in South Virginia and Chicago. Construction work continues in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Binghanton and St Louis.

Dr. Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary: *Waqf-e-Nau* department arranged and held classes of *Waqf-e-Nau* children with the Khalifatul-Masih. *Jami'a* awareness meetings were held at a dozen *Jama'ats*, 51 boys visited *Jami'a* Canada and 13 boys from US are studying at the Canada *Jami'a* presently.

Munum Naeem, Na'ib Ameer and Executive Director of Humanity First USA: The Executive Director of the Humanity First provided the update of activities of last year Humanity First carried out under the guidance of Hazoor^{aba}. A detailed report was emailed to all *Shura* delegates and a short version of the report was presented in the Non - *Shura* Session.

Waseem Malik, Na'ib Ameer: Media department held training sessions, issued 34 press releases, supported outreach effort with about 3000 phone calls. News were covered by over 650 print and online media outlets.

Nasir Malik: Agriculture department made several presentations and gave seminars on the use of agriculture to feed the hungry and its use for *Tabligh*.

Dr. Zaheeruddiin Mansoor Ahmad: *Ta'limul-Qur'an* department reported that 10 devotees completed their assignments temporary devotion (*Waqf Ardi*). Two regional classes were held. 70 students are attending online classes from Rabwah. 1851 members are registered with al-Furqan website.

Amjad Mahmood Khan: *Umur Kharija* held about 800 high level meetings with civil officials. Launched Ahmadiyya Muslim Caucus. Helped Ahmadis against persecution in Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, India Bangladesh and Libya.

Mirza Naseer Ehsan Ahmad: Finance department received *Chanda* collections well over last year's budget.

Shahid Saeed Malik: *Umur Ammah* department is helping over 210 refugees and asylum seekers in settling spread over 17 *Jama'ats*.

Respected *Ameer* US commented that dedicating one's life for the service of Islam is a noble, unique, desirable and special track. Encourage *Jama'ats* to help in sending children to *Jami'a* Canada.

Dr. Zaheer Bajwa, General Secretary, presented proposals not accepted for *Shura* discussion and explained the process about the acceptance and rejection of proposals. Secretary finance presented budget for 2014-15.

Subcommittees were formed to discuss the proposals chosen for deliberation and present their

recommendations to the general body. Subcommittees held their meetings during the night and the next morning.

Tarbiyat subcommittee was chaired by Sahibzadah Dr. Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad with Dr Faheem Younus as secretary. The proposal discussed was: "Approximately 4,000 Ahmadi Muslim children under the age of 15 (boys and girls) live in the United States. Special emphasis for the *Tarbiyyat* of these children is needed. In the light of Hazoor's^{aba} recent Friday sermon on the importance of self-reformation, National *Majlis-e-Amila* recommended that *Jama'at* USA develop and implement a comprehensive *Tarbiyyat* plan for all children under the age of 15. Hazoor's remarks: In the light of these *Khutbat* develop and implement a *Tabiyyat* plan for all children under the age 15.)

General subcommittee was chaired by Dr Hameedur Rahman with Nasir Mahmood Malik as secretary. The proposal under discussion was: "Every week when we listen to the Friday sermon of Hazoor we are anguished at the feeling that, collectively, we are not where Hazoor expects us to be. What step can we take, besides prayers, to get there?"

Tabligh subcommittee was chaired by Dr Nasim Rehmatullah with Hasan Hakeem as secretary. The proposal under discussion was: "Keeping in mind the current pace of joining our *Jama'at* is slow, it is proposed that:

- We should carefully explore what are the major spiritual and religious needs of common American men and women.
- An appropriate strategy has to be developed to offer solutions for these needs. (Hazoor's^{aba} remarks:

Based on their needs explore possible ways of *Tabligh* to these segments of the society).

Finance subcommittee was chaired by Munum Naeem with Mirza Ehsan Ahmad as secretary. The agenda under discussion was budget of the USA Jama'at for 2014-2015.

A Non-*Shura* session was held in the morning on Saturday April 12, 2014. Humanity First collected \$220,000 in a telethon while their goal was \$100,000. Report Master was introduced and questions from delegates were answered. Detailed report on various aspects of activities in progress in Marshall Islands was presented. Respected *Ameer* US commented that the honesty and integrity we are carrying to the Island is an important example and goes a long way. This was the driving force behind early Islam. Moral impact is more important and is accompanied by Allah's will in the direction of success. Media team and *Rishta Nata* also made presentations.

The second session started in the afternoon with a reading from the Holy Qur'an by Dr. Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary. *Tarbiyat* and General subcommittees presented their recommendations. Delegates presented their views on the recommendations.

A non-*Shura* administrative session was held during the night.

The third and the last session of *Majlis Shura* started Sunday April 13, 2014 morning with a reading from the Holy Qur'an by Missionary Zafar Sarwar followed by *Tabligh* and finance subcommittee recommendations. Delegates provided their comments on the subcommittee recommendations.

Munum Naeem, Na'ib *Ameer*, USA and the Executive Director of Humanity First USA provided the update of activities of last year Humanity First carried out under the guidance of Hazoor. He also shared with the *Shura* delegates and particularly the Presidents about what they can do to further help in the work of Humanity First. Detailed instructions were provided about organizing a fundraising dinner, inviting people from outside the *Jama'at* and using it as a public relations opportunity. Munum Naeem Sahib shared an interesting point of his *Mulaqaat* with Hazoor^{aba} about he requested Hazoor^{aba} for prayers as funds were running low at HF and requested Hazoor^{aba} to make some small contribution of money which he would deposit as "jaag" (small amount of yogurt used to make gallons of milk into yogurt). Beloved Hazoor^{aba} graciously made the effort to find US dollars and gave \$200 to him. Munum Naeem Sahib mentioned to *Shura* body that he has the "jag" from Hazoor and now he needs the "Milk" from the members present. By the grace of Allah members came forward and \$38,000 in pledges and contribution were made by the members as the Milk money for Humanity First. *Alhamdulillah*.

Respected *Ameer* US in his concluding address thanked all the workers who put an effort in preparing for the visit of the Khalifatul-Masih that was cancelled. He further commented: the Mosque fund team is making good effort in fund raising. Encourage everybody to look at it constructively to make it work for everyone's benefit. Mosque planning is

going forwards in Bay Point where we are focusing on the Spanish population. We need to encourage more ventures in Mexico. It is a huge country with many ethnic groups. Respected *Ameer* US mentioned various mosque projects all over the country one by one and asked the members to support the mosque fund for successful completion of the projects.

He said that students should become active in *Tabligh* at their schools. They should engage the fellow students to sponsor, promote and bring other students to our programs conducted at the school. Gaining members is important. Khalifatul Masih is laying stress on getting the message out to a large number of people. Purpose of this huge effort is to prove the point (*Itmam Hujjat*). God's signs will show up when we have done that. That is what the Holy Prophet^{saw}, did for thirteen or more years. Through that long period of struggle, ground was prepared by Allah and He showed his signs. Task is huge. Get the word across. Individual *Tabligh* is the same thing. They may walk away but we have made the point. *Bai'ats* are also important.

Thanks to all workers. Pray to Allah that all the projects and plans we have talked about, He finds them acceptable and guides us to make them happen. May Allah bless us individually and may He bless our families. *Majlis Shura* concluded with prayers.

On Saturday following the traditions of *Majlis Shura* Pakistan, a special dinner was served to the delegates of the *Shura*. This tradition was observed for the first time in the USA.

Group pictures of the delegates were taken after the conclusion of *Majlis Shura*.

REMINISCENCE OF A TRAGIC DAY: MAY 28, 2010

Mobashir Latif Ahmad, Toronto, Canada



Four years ago, on Friday, May 28, 2010, the sworn enemies of the Ahmadiyya *Jama'at*—through the armed terrorists—waged a full-blooded attack on Baitun Noor, the Ahmadiyya Muslim mosque in Model Town, Lahore. Simultaneously, a similar attack was also launched on *Daruz Zikr*, the Ahmadiyya Mosque in Garhi Shahu, Lahore. God Almighty blessed me with a chance to go through that ordeal at *Baitun Noor*.

On that day, I had arrived at the mosque at about 12:45 P.M., 45 minutes earlier than the scheduled time of the start of the Friday sermon at 1:30 P.M. I occupied a chair in the front row, in the main hall of the mosque, and got busy reciting, in silence, the various Qur'anic and other prayers. At exactly 1:30 P.M., the *Murabbi* of the *Jama'at* started delivering the Friday sermon. He had hardly taken a start by uttering only a few sentences when I heard a big explosion from the left side of the hall. I thought it was an explosion in the next door bungalow on the left. After a few seconds, there was another

equally strong explosion from nearly the same direction. The third explosion of the same nature and strength was heard from the front side. The fourth explosion occurred on the right side of the hall.

During all four explosions, the *Murabbi* continued uninterrupted with his sermon very normally and boldly, and as a part of it, continued giving instructions to the addressees with full confidence and presence of mind that they continue reciting *Kalima*, *Durood*, and various prayers and that they keep up their morale in high spirit without losing heart. With the Grace of God Almighty, there was no panic at all.

Simultaneous with the fourth explosion, the indiscriminate firing started from the right side. At that time, the *Murabbi* said, "Those sitting on the chairs, please be on the floor." I also left the chair, taking shelter behind the nearby pillar and sat down on the floor behind another person, Yahya Sahib, a friend of nearly my age, holding him fast from behind and kept absorbed in prayers. There was an unending volley of bullets. I realized that the bullets were being fired from all sides, even from the ceiling, like showers. There were sparks from the ceiling giving an impression as if

some people were firing from above, through the ceiling, but actually the bullets hitting the ceiling created the sparks and ricocheted all around, thus leaving nowhere safe in the hall. A full-fledged armed attack on *Baitun Noor* was in full-swing.

At that time, there was a very strong explosion in the hall, which filled it with smoke. I thought it was perhaps a device meant to make us faint. We were helpless. We did not know what to do. The only weapon we had was of prayers, which we used.

At that time, my thought suddenly diverted to Hazoor^{aba}. I started thinking that all of us present at the mosque knew what was happening to us. Hazoor by then must have come to know about the attack, but about the detail of what was happening inside the mosque, he would not be aware of as yet. He would thus be very concerned under the circumstance, like a father who knows for certain that at the point of time his children are in extreme danger facing death but does not yet know the exact situation they are in. I, under the circumstances—oblivious to the surrounding situation—prayed for Hazoor, "O God! Keep Hazoor under your special care and let not any kind of worry get even near him. Amin."

There now was a lull for a few seconds. Yahya Sahib asked me, "Shall we not move to the shelter of the nearby wall?" I kept quiet. He crept to it. I also followed him. He lay

down with his right palm under his right ear and his head thus touching the wall and with his body stretched towards the hall. I, adopting exactly the same posture, lay down behind him. Quiet, we all were, reciting prayers with *Kalima* and *Durood* silently.

Subsequently, three hand grenades exploded in succession just near Yahya Sahib, at a distance of about 5 to 7 feet. My shelter-companion died, in my lap, perhaps as a result of the shrapnel from one of these explosions while very fine pieces of glass hit my head resulting in two very minor injuries.

There was a complete quiet thereafter for quite some time. I opened my eyes to acquaint myself with the latest situation. I saw a dreadful scene. A terrorist, with his weapon pointing at the floor, was moving very slowly from the hall entrance side, alongside the wall, towards the *Mih-rab* (Prayer niche). He was apparently trying to find out if anyone was still alive so that he could shoot him. He was all alone and unchallenged in the hall that was strewn with dead bodies.

At this, I prayed, with a complete devotion to Him, "O God! at this time, we have no worldly security, even worth the name, against this man who is unchallenged. You now send your own force to defend us." Simultaneous with it, I felt a thought entering into my head: you become motionless, still and don't move at all; behave like a dead body. I then acted upon this thought completely, in letter and spirit, and acted like a dead body. My feet and white *Shalwar* (trousers) were already imbued with the blood of my dead and grievously injured brothers, including that of Yahya Sahib. It went in line with me behaving

as a dead person.

The prayer seemed to have been accepted. The quiet continued for a long time; I continued to lay silent.

At last, I heard a voice, "Give him water." I thought it was a friendly voice but I did not take a chance and did not open my eyes. After a while, I heard the voice of my driver, "Are you okay, Sir?" At that point, I opened my eyes and realized that it was all over.

Afterwards, I came to know that my next to youngest brother, Sajid Naeem Shaheed, was martyred in the incident at Baitun Noor, along with many others who perished during the simultaneous attacks on the two Ahmadiyya mosques on that tragic day. May God Almighty bless them all, their families, and their generations to come, and may the tree of Ahmadiyyat continue to grow and flourish in the face of such aggression. *Ameen*.

Mobashir Latif Ahmad is a Senior Advocate of Supreme Court of Pakistan. He has taught law at University of the Punjab for 45 years. He has been blessed with the opportunity to represent the *Jama'at* in blasphemy and other cases against Ahmadis in Pakistan since 1974. He currently resides in Toronto, Canada.

PAY ZAKAT

WAQAR-E-AMAL BY PHILADELPHIA JAMA'AT

Jamil Bashir

By the Grace of Allah, we had a very nice *Waqar-e-Amal* at our mosque site on Saturday, April 5th. We held one previously in November. Since then, a great deal of trash had accumulated around the perimeter of the site. We had twelve *Khuddam* and two *Ansar* join in on the effort. We spent about 2.5 hours at work, with a nice coffee and donut break in between. In total, we collected about 30 bags of trash. We also took a truckload of large debris to a local dumpster. We ended at the *Masjid* with lunch and *Salat*, along with a very nice and candid discussion around some of the distractions that are pulling our *Khuddam* away from the *Jama'at*.

Our *Nazim Waqar-e-Amal*, Talal Ahmad, did a wonderful job as always in directing and motivating our crew, *Alhumdulillah*.

HUMANITY FIRST

NEEDS

VOLUNTEERS

DIALOG WITH CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS

Rashid Arshed, Los Angeles

On the request of the Editor of ArtNow online International, I wrote an article "The Graven Images, Art in Religion" which was published in the November 2013 issue. My friend Sardar Munir Ahmad of Coventry England forwarded the following part of my article to his three Christian friends, Mike Brown, Mark Singlehursts and Clive Robinson: "We find in Old and New Testament some strong words used for those who make and worship images. We read thus in the Old Testament:

You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth." Exodus 20:4

In Revelation, the idolaters are equated with murderers and fornicators: *"But as for the crowds and those who are disgusting in their faith and murderers and fornicators and those practicing spiritism and idolaters and all the liars their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This means the second death."* Revelation 21:8

The purpose of prohibition of images in the Judeo-Christian teachings is clearly set forth in the following verse in Leviticus: *"You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God."* Leviticus 26:1

The above verse clearly states the reason for prohibition of making images."

Sardar Munir Ahmad, introduced to me all three of his friends as erudite and well versed in comparative religions but hardened Catholics. Mark Singlehursts and Clive Robinson responded to my remarks in defense of their belief in detail. I am giving below the concluding remarks of Mr. Robinson's response:

"As we consider items from our respective faiths, this common question gives us direction and purpose. For me the Statue used as a prayer focus on God both directly and with the help of Mary and Jesus, meets the criteria, the prayers we say helps to build up the Kingdom of God. The effort to go to this place of prayer does the same in the person and the group and to those who see us praying. Interestingly a Methodist minister has joined us in the Rosary prayers and I have seen a picture of John Wesley with a Rosary on his bedside chair. Perhaps this note of unity can grow to include our Muslim brothers and sisters including Sunni and Shiite and other, for this unity is another purpose God has given to Our Lady."

Next question: "What is the Kingdom of God?" and does Islam have this phrase/concept?"

God bless you all and those you love,

Clive Robinson

I responded to Mr. Rob-

inson and his colleagues in the following words:

Respected all, I apologize for the delay in responding Mr. Robinson's email. I was too busy giving Caesar what was Caesar's, literally, and neglected to give what was God's. God will forgive I am sure, but Caesar, the US Tax Collector in this case, is not forgiving.

When my friend Munir Ahmad introduced me to you gentlemen as a writer, I am sure he must have in his mind an Urdu writer, the credit I am willing to take, but I am seized by fright when I have to pick up my pen to write something in English. This fear is settled in my psyche since school days when my English teacher did not show any mercy for my mistakes. I remember always writing "I am go to School" instead of "I go to school". However, I never got rebuked for this error probably because it was close enough in the judgment of my teacher, who taught English in the Punjabi dialect, or he thought it to be correct.

Just when Mr. Robinson's email arrived, I was assigned to search and collect all books written on "Jesus in India" and "The tomb of Jesus in (Kashmir) India" for an upcoming book exhibition on the subject. I have searched so far 40 books and purchased 25, mostly written by western scholars.

Mr. Robinson has raised some new questions which ought to be addressed by a qualified person, which I am not. I will, however, try to share my views as best I can. But first allow

me to quote a verse from the Bible, which should serve as a reference point in our discussion:

Jesus, peace be upon him, said: "Think not that I have come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I have not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Matt. 5:17

Here, Jesus obviously speaks about the Mosaic Law, which was meant for the Israelites including Jesus who was born a Jew and raised as a Torah-observant Jew. It is interesting how this obvious fact is frequently ignored or downplayed in the presentation of Christian beliefs.

Now I will attempt to discuss the position taken by Mr. Robinson on the idolatry or bowing down before statues. Mr. Robinson states: "Mary does however have a purpose in all of this which is her intercession for us. Think of the times you have interceded for someone or asked another to intercede for you then ask why you do this."

Intercession, as I understand, is done or should be done on the basis of merit alone, whether in worldly matters or spiritual. Merit in spiritual matters is "Righteousness;" that is to follow the commandments in letter and in spirit.

Allow me to quote the Bible on images once again: "You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 26:1

The above commandment emphatically speaks about the images intended for worship. One may ask, if the Christians who make the images and bow down before the images, are

fulfilling the Law or destroying the Law? Are they following what Jesus said or have they succumbed to idolatry just as the Jews did in the absence of Moses when he went to Mount Sinai?

As for the intercession, we can connect it with forgiveness. The Holy Qur'an, which is a book of guidance, not an object of worship, invariably mentions having faith or firm belief, followed by the call to perform good deeds. Here is one verse: *"By time, indeed, mankind is in a state of loss, Except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to have patience."* 103:1-3

The theory of atonement and intercession or reward and punishment is explained thus in Exodus:

34- Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin."

35- And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

If I pledge allegiance to the Flag or the Crown and break all the laws of the land, I should not expect any mercy from the Authority. I would also not like to see some innocent soul pay the price for my sins with his blood. This kind of justice, as we know, is not practiced in any developed society, nor would any religious

organization recommend to its government to adopt such a law where one innocent is put to death in place of a criminal offender. This kind of justice gives license to break all the commandments including, "Thou shall have no other god beside me...Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image (to bow down to them)...Thou shall not Kill... Thou shall not commit adultery..." etc., etc.

God created man in His own image (Genesis 1:20) so the Law He gave to man should also fit the nature of man. That is the law of reward and punishment based on action or deeds and not mere oath of allegiance and affiliation. If Jesus had truly come to pay for the sins of all mankind by his blood, he would surely have known about his mission and would not have prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane: "My Father! If it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt." (Mathew 26:39) And then on the Cross: "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?"

But God did not forsake Jesus. He answered his fervent prayers and saved him from the "Accursed Death" Jews had planned for him. God also fulfilled the Miracle of Jonas by making Jesus go in the belly of fish (grave) alive and come out of it alive after three days, and then proceed eastward to deliver his message to the remaining Lost Sheep of the House of Israel who had migrated to Iran, Afghanistan and Northern India.

One may ask, "What is the difference between the concept of Atonement presented by Paul and the human sacrifice practiced in ancient cultures including Greeks and Romans to relieve a person from his sins and open the gates of paradise for him?"

The Holy Qur'an states four attributes of God in the opening chapter:

He is Lord of all the worlds (Sustainer). 2- Most Gracious. 3- Most Merciful. 4- Master of the Day of Judgment.

These attributes summarize all of His Divine Qualities and also explain the concept of reward and punishment. He shows Mercy to the righteous and also to the sinner when he repents with sincerity. He punishes the wicked and the arrogant and those who transgress and oppress and persecute His people. Fate of the people of Noah, Lot, Pharaoh and others are mentioned in the Bible. I cannot imagine God forgiving those wicked people who persecuted Jesus and made him go through unspeakable pain.

The Concept of Trinity was already well-established in Greek-Roman religion, inheriting it from Egyptian beliefs dating back to 3750 BC and the Osiris-Isis-Horus Trinitarian godhead. Paul merely fused Judaism with current pagan beliefs and god-man hybrids (Hercules, Perseus, et al.) to popularize Christianity among the Greeks and Romans who already believed in the polytheist preexisting "dying-and-rising gods" phenomena. The myth of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit must have had a great appeal for them as it was close to the belief they were already practicing. But by doing so Paul destroyed the Mosaic Law of absolute Oneness of God which Jesus also proselytized (Mark 12:29, Deut.6:4) and which the early Jewish Christians followed.

Mr. Robinson has posed a question at the end: "What is the Kingdom of God? And does Islam have this Phrase/Concept?"

This is an interesting question and I am sure volumes have been

written on this subject. I will refer back to the four attributes of God mentioned in Qur'an that I have quoted above. These attributes encompass the Kingdom of God who is the Creator of the universe and also the Sustainer. He is the most Gracious, Most Merciful and he sits on the seat of Judgment. The Kingdom of God descends on the "Righteous" thus it is in the heart of a guided man. Revelation, the guidance for mankind comes under His attribute of being 'Most Gracious'. Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad (peace and blessing be upon them), and all other prophets were blessed with revelation, which is the greatest bounty God has showered upon Man.

Kingdom of God is also associated with the Second Coming of Jesus as believed by Christians and a majority of Muslims. Jews also believed that Elijah, who took a Chariot to heaven, would return in the same fashion. However, Jesus explained that Elijah did, in fact, return, but not by descending from heaven in his same body. The Jews at the time of Jesus failed to recognize the Second Coming of Elijah because he came as John the Baptist, in the power and spirit of Elijah.

We are familiar with "The Man Who would be King" by Rudyard Kipling. His character, Daniel Dravot, is a British Soldier who, with his colleagues, ends up in remote Kafiristan. The inhabitants take him as the reincarnation, the second coming of Alexander the Great and pronounce his kingdom. So, the Sec-

ond Coming in person is a primitive belief that has also captured the fancy of the highly enlightened societies across the globe. The Hindus and the Buddhists are waiting for the reincarnation of Krishna and Buddha respectively and Shia Muslim their 12th Imam who mysteriously disappeared in the 9th century and will reappear together with Jesus. The Mahdi of the Sunni Muslims is not a vanished Imam but would be a contemporary of the Promised Jesus and who would draw his sword and single handedly kill all the infidels on the earth. Scary; but fortunately just another myth.

With best wishes, Rashid Arshed

Credits: Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Jesus in India, Jonnathan M.A Ghaffar: Three Abrahamic Faiths, A Timeline for Islam

Mark Singlehurst's response:

Dear Mr Arshed,

Many thanks for your most detailed and interesting recent e-mail. This is just a holding note to assure you that I do intend to attempt a full reply in due course, but obviously you cover a lot of important questions and I suspect it may take me some while to compose a proper response! As I write I am about to go on a week's holiday (actually a Christian convention-style event known as 'Spring Harvest'); there will be no Internet connection available to me there, so please bear with me a little longer!

Clive Robinson and Mike Brown may make their own comments in the meantime, of course, so I will look forward to continuing our correspondence after I return.

Warm regards, Mark Singlehurst

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW TO ADJUST UPON IMMIGRATION FROM PAKISTAN

Zafar Malik, San Jose CA

1) Upon landing in USA, I found myself in very difficult conditions. Being a Senior Citizen I found myself quite unfit for the new society and thought it was end of my active life though I had been working in a responsible role in Karachi as a Senior Civil Engineer/deputy General Manager. Then again I thought that being an Ahmadi I must contribute to the *Jama'at* and Community and should not sit idle. Then my journey started with a lot of prayers to Almighty Allah and regularly writing letters to our dear Hazoorsm for prayers to have strength to be a useful person. Thank God now I am a very busy person and am engaged in doing a lot of community work serving humanity in different areas such as:

- 1) I started opening our mosque and attached Library and compiled a list of the more than one thousand books available in the Library and ensured their proper placement in the cabinet
- 2) I made serious efforts in getting driving licence for my mobility. *Alhamdulillah* I got a driving license and now have my own car.
- 3) Simultaneously I registered myself as a volunteer in Seven Trees community center San Jose and started serving food to Seniors and helping them. This has caused a very positive impact and they took an inter-

est in me so I got an opportunity to introduce Islam and Ahmadiyyat politely and tactfully and tried to dispel all misconceptions about Islam.

- 4) At the same time I started coaching Citizenship Classes to Vietnamese immigrants at the above Community Center. In appreciation for my services towards the community, I was awarded a best Volunteer Certificate

5) I also became a volunteer for Seven Trees Public Library and helped them in holding books sale events at different occasions and thus got ample opportunity to interact with the different people

- 6) At the same time I kept on Volunteering in our *Jama'at* activities such as attending the *Tablighi* Stall at the Flea Market and participation in preparing food and serving it to homeless people in association with other religious groups

7) At present I am working in the JobLink office as a job assistance coach at Sacred Hearts Community Service helping jobless people to find jobs and helping them in other areas of human services such as clothing and food. There I am also trying to learn Spanish from my fellow staff as well as taking com-

puter classes to enhance my skills further.

By doing all these humanity services I feel satisfaction. I am thankful to God and advise all my fellow senior Ahmadi not to bow against odds and be a productive part of *Jama'at* and society. Demonstrating your sympathetic attitude towards less privileged persons of the society is another way of *Tabligh* of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. May God help us succeed in our endeavor and give us strength to serve His mankind

FASTING

Hadhrat Mu'adh bin Zahrah^{ra} relates that the Holy

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ صُمتُ وَ عَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ

Prophet^{saw} recited the following prayer at the breaking of the fast:

Allah for Thy sake I observed the fast and I end it with that which Thou has provided

(*Abu Dawud kitabussiyam bab alqaul 'indal iftar*)

MERCED CHAPTER HELD MUHAMMAD^{saw} MESSENGER OF PEACE TEACH-IN AT MERCED COLLEGE

Shahid Sohail

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Merced, CA Chapter co-hosted with Journalism Club of Merced College TEACH-IN

Muhammad^{saw} Messenger of Peace. Event was held on Thursday, April 17th, 2014. The event was held in class session style and to accommodate more students we held two sessions, first session from 1 pm to 2 Pm and second session from 2 pm - 3 pm.

For the first time Merced Chapter did something different, on our speaking panel we had professors and students who were not Ahmadi. The event was chaired by Dr. Mario Cardova, Dean of EOPS at Merced College. Respected Dr. Taylor, President of Merced College attend both the sessions as a student of Islam. Keynote speaker for the event was respected Abdur Raqeeb Wali, President Merced Chapter & Regional *Tabligh* Secretary, North-West. In the first session he talked on the farewell sermon of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} and in the second session he talked about, the Charter of Freedom dictated by the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. In both sessions the speaker gave a brief history of Islam and contributions of Muslims to the humanity.

The event was very well attended. *Alhamdulillah!* In all, 65 Merced College students / profes-

sors attended the two sessions and 13 members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Merced Chapter attended the Teach-In. Apart from the regular format of the event, we were very much over whelmed by the two students one who very positively portrayed the Muslims and a girl poet who wrote a poem specially for this event, regarding who are women in Islam. Both youngsters did a very good job from an outsider point of view. Also the two professors, Mr. Smith talked about the causes of conflict in religions and history and legacy of the Patriarch. Professor Hicks, gave a very well prepared talk on " Breaking False Images / Stereo types and Phobias". Both professors did an excellent job, considering they were outsiders and students of Islam.

At the end of each session a brief question / answer session was held. The College auditorium which had 150 person occupancy theater style, was decorated with our two banners on walls and electronically displayed banners on a screen via powerpoint throughout the event.

As a token of appreciation, complementary gift bags from the *Jamā'at* were distributed to the guests. These gift bags included: A copy of "*Life*

of Muhammad^{saw}" and a pamphlet of Hazoor's^{aba} Friday sermon of September 21st, 2012." *True Love for the Holy Prophet^{saw}.*"

After the program concluded, the response of the students and teachers of the Merced College was overwhelming. Students expressed sincere delight with MMOP presentation. They expressed that because of the MMOP presentation, their understanding of the Holy Prophet^{saw} and Islām was enormously enriched. Also a Q/A session was not coming to an end after the last session. Students had lots of questions, which were answered in detail by A.R.Wali Sahib. On the way out after every session students were offered ice cold water bottles and cookies, which was also very much appreciated by the attendees.

In conclusion, Merced Chapter prays to God Almighty, that He rewards Merced Chapter for the humble efforts made for spreading the message of Islam/Ahmadiyyat and upholding the honor of the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad^{saw}. This event will also be reported in the monthly news letter of Merced College online and printed form by the journalism club of Merced College and the club will also send a report to the local newspaper and will load the video on the college web site and YouTube. Merced College has over ten thousand registered student at any given time.

REPORT OF MUHAMMAD^{saw} MESSENGER OF PEACE (MMOP) EVENT HELD AT SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE

Mohammed Jaffar, General Secretary, Sacramento

Alhamdolillah, we witnessed again the help of Allah the Almighty in making our "Muhammad^{saw} Messenger of Peace Symposium" a resounding success. The Symposium was held on April 3, 2014 at Sacramento City College and was hosted by the Sacramento Chapter. A month of solid effort made by the handful of dedicated Sacramento *Jama'at* members paid off by the sheer grace of Allah, with a successful conclusion.

The function proper commenced on time at 3pm under the chairmanship of Missionary Salman Ahmad, based at the Bay Point Chapter. Prior to the commencement of the program, the hall with a capacity of over a hundred people was decorated with impressive banners, posters and a display of books and periodicals. A hundred chairs were set up for the audience, and by the Grace of Allah about eighty people participated in the event, including forty five non-Ahmadi audience members.

In the audience were some forty college students and two professors who taught Philosophy, Religion, Moral and Ethics etc. The event commenced with Quran *Tilawat* followed by translation. A short video clip was shown introducing Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

A poem in Arabic (*Qasida*) was presented followed by translation. Then Raqeeb Wali Sahib presented the main speech on the Life of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. Wali Sahib is well known in California with extensive experience in the teaching field. He is an African American member who became an Ahmadi in 1959. He works as a Chaplain at one of the largest women's prison in the US. He is the president of Merced Chapter in California, now at the age of 82. He gave an impressive presentation with humor in between. He kept the audience alive. The time allotted was obviously not sufficient to cover the topic, however in view of the majority of the audience being students, he focused on Islamic beliefs and practices, universal teaching and misconception about *Jihad* etc. He also focused on how the media in the west projects Islam in a negative manner.

Two video clips were presented on activities of Humanity First and Muslims for Life blood drive campaign.

Professor of Philosophy, Andre Jensen, who teaches Introduction to World Religion, when approached agreed to give a short comment. He said that he

was grateful that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community chose this college to host their event. He said that he always urged his students to attend this kind of events as it provided the means to build bridges of understanding between various religious groups. He thanked the chair for the privilege of addressing the audience.

Special guests were presented with gift bags containing the book Life of Muhammad followed by the question and answer session. Majority of the questions were asked by the students, illustrating that many students had come well prepared for questions. A major portion of the time from the whole event was spent on the question and answer session. People were so eager to ask questions that we went beyond the time allotted for this session.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the professors in attendance and all the audience for participating in this event. Everyone was invited to join in for refreshments and given a gift bag. Further discussion ensued during this time. It was indeed a very fruitful and educational event. *Alhamdolillah*, our effort paid off in making this event a success.

MUHAMMAD^{saw} THE MESSENGER OF PEACE CONFERENCE HELD IN DAYTON, OH

Mirza Mahmood Ahmad

The Dayton *Jama'at* is comparatively a very small *Jama'at*, but took a very bold step in holding and organizing the peace conference in the University of Dayton this year on April 8th. This University is built by the Catholics more than 150 years ago in 1850. The University has an international flavor, because one can see the students there from all corners of the world. There are many students from the Middle East and Indo Pak subcontinent as well.

The preparation of the conference started sometimes during the month of February. Almost all the members as well as the *Aamila*, would meet at every weekend. *Lajna* also participated and worked for the success of the conference.

For the day of the conference, some subcommittees were formed, which worked during the whole period and especially on that day very smoothly under the leadership of the local president and the regional Missionary sahib.

A few days before the conference, the Dayton Daily News published the news with detail.

Our Keynote speaker was Brother Hasan Hakeem, the National *Tabligh* Secretary. Honorable Walter Herbert Rice, the Judge of the United States District Court was the special guest invited for this conference. Another prominent guest was the Dayton Police Director and Chief, Richard S. Belhi, who came with six/seven other police officers.

They and some other guests addressed the conference at the end and praised the *Jama'at* for its services to the mankind.

There were two senior pastors of two different churches also. The total number of the participants of the conference were a little over one hundred and guests from all walks of life were more than fifty.

At the end there was Question/Answer session. Many interesting questions were asked which were answered beautifully by the panel. One of the questions was 'What is the difference between the other Muslims and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community'.

After the conference some prominent guests were given the gifts of some important books of the community including the book of the Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}, the "World Crises and the Path way to The world Peace".

Finally the guests were requested to proceed to the refreshments and the exhibition on the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} and the Holy Quran and the free books arranged outside the conference hall.

The guests while enjoying the refreshment were getting the free books and looking at the charts displayed and asking the

questions on different topics. Muslim students from different countries asked many questions. Our *Jama'at* members helped them with the answers very patiently.

The following Friday, a student from Saudi Arabia attend our service and liked our community very much and asked many important questions.

One more guest and our long time community friend who is often attending our Friday services and other programs and also attended our last year's *Jalsa Salana*, brought two more guests with him. I want to share his email which he sent us a few days after the conference. He writes:

Dear (Maulana) Irshad (Malhi Sahib) and Mirza,

Peace be upon you my friends.

I want to share with you how profoundly inspirational and informative was "Muhammad - Messenger of Peace" at the University of Dayton. My friends from Kenya, Simon and Jestimore, felt like they had touched the beauty of Islam through the Ahmadiyya community. They are still talking about the convention today to the leadership of the seminary community and their peers. I am not sure if I told you, but my Kenyan brothers have designed independent studies in Islam this semester at Earlham School of Religion - the first to do so at the school. And, as you know, I have designed my own in Islam at Bethany Theological Seminary (the

first to do at this school), which is the sister school to Earlham School of Religion. (both in Indiana)

Simon and Jestimore are hoping to go back to Kenya (or wherever they are in the world) and work to create peace and community between Christians and Muslims, who are often in tension and hostility with each other in Eastern Africa. Their goal is to immerse themselves in Islam while here in the states, and to find creative ways to bring people of both traditions in Kenya and the surrounding area around the same table in friendship and understanding. The conference in Dayton has inspired them more than ever to work for peace between African Muslims and Christians.

Thank you so much. The light and love of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has touched them (and, of course, me!), and has given them confidence and vision in working for clarity, truth and peace among humanity. You have made a difference in perhaps ways you may not always be aware.

Much Peace and Gratitude,
Nick

(He sent the copy of this email to Dr. Abdul Q. Shahid as well).

One of the Pastors from Lutheran Church, who attended our event, while addressing his congregation in his church on the following Sunday, he said, that although the Muslims have different beliefs from us, but they are serving the humanity in different parts of the world in different ways. They are doing so many good things. They meet the inmates in the prisons to help remove their suffering. One of the congregants of that church informed us about this.

MEETING WITH MR. GREG BALLARD, THE MAYOR OF INDIANAPOLIS

Imran Malik, President Indiana Jama'at

I had an opportunity to meet with Indianapolis Mayor Mr. Greg Ballard and his Director Douglas Hairston on April 1st 2014. The meeting took place in Mayor's conference room in the city county building in downtown Indianapolis. *Alhamdulillah*, the meeting was very successful.

I shared a brief history of our *Jama'at* in Indiana and followed that with our belief in Hadhrat Masih Mau'ood^{as}. He was really surprised to hear that a group of Muslims believes that the second coming of Jesus Christ^{as} has already taken place. Using information from the Day on the Hill PR package, I gave him a brief history of Islam, its various sects. He was very interested in this historical information and said he will review the PR packet to learn more. I explained to him how Ahmadiyyat started from a small town in India and in a short time has now spread all over the world, fulfilling the prophesy of Hadhrat Masih Mau'ood^{as}. I briefed him on the hot spots of persecution of minorities around the world. The Mayor was very sympathetic and said that it must be hard to be a Muslim in these environments.

I then informed Mr. Ballard about the current heightened emphasis by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} on ending warfare and a way to achieve worldwide peace. I also shared with him the details of Hazoor's recent travels across the globe to the prominent nations including USA and his addresses to their esteemed governmental bodies. He was then presented with a copy of Hazoor's book "World Crisis and a Pathway to peace".

I shared with him all the work we do in Indiana to promote the peaceful teachings of Islam including our various campaigns and work with interfaith organizations. I then asked that AMC Indiana would like to hold a blood drive in partnership with his office and he thought that was a good idea. He asked his Director Mr. Hairston to work with me in this regard.

During the introduction of the *Jama'at* I had mentioned Hadhrat Chaudhry Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan Sahib^{ra} and presented the Mayor with a copy of the Holy Qur'an with translation by the late Muhammad Zafrulla Sahib^{ra}.

The meeting was arranged by our Finance Sec Muzaffar Ahmad Sahib but due to a late development at this workplace he was unable to attend the meeting. I request for prayers that may Allah^{swt} help us make this blood drive a reality and a success. May we also be able to make it a permanent annual fixture in downtown Indianapolis. *Ameen*.

QUR'AN FORBIDS MEN FROM HURTING WOMEN

This article was originally published in Duluth News Tribune on April 6, 2014

During a discussion with my 11-year-old daughter on the subject of respect and the status of women in Islam, the conversation turned to the issue of domestic violence. When I told my daughter that critics of Islam allege the Quran encourages men to beat women she looked at me in sheer disbelief. I asked her to read the verse 4:35, which advises men, "And as for those on whose part you fear disobedience, admonish them, and leave them alone in their beds, and chastise them." In some versions of Quran, the Arabic word "*dharabu-hunna*" in this verse is translated as "beat them" instead of "chastise them."

My daughter shockingly whispered, "Baba, I don't think you will ever take this advice."

"Why not?" I played along. "I wish all men would follow this advice."

She instantly reacted, "You don't make sense, Baba."

To make sense of it, let's first analyze the issue.

According to the World Health Organization, one in three women worldwide is attacked or abused, most by their intimate partners. In America alone, every day, 1,100 women experience physical assaults and at least three women are killed by their husbands or boyfriends.

Why do men hurt women they claim to love?

Usually, men who batter women tend to seek a sense of control over their intimate partners taking ad-

vantage of their sheer physical power or economic supremacy. Any perceived attempt on their partners' behalf toward independence instigates their anger, which they can't control well. Researchers at the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania found that the part of the brain that controls anger is smaller in men than it is in women.

Disagreements in couples can occur over matters as simple as dinner choice or as serious as family planning. Domestic harmony prevails only if couples resolve these conflicts amicably instead of nurturing their egos. While a woman's egoistic approach toward any conflict will risk domestic harmony, a husband's ego may end up as a domestic-violence incident.

Recognizing this reality of life, the Quran commands men to "consort with their wives in kindness" in everyday matters to upkeep domestic harmony. And to resolve any serious conflicts, it teaches them a three-stage anger management technique: admonish them, leave them alone in their beds, and chastise them, ensuring women's safety at every step.

When a man faces a situation where his wife's rebellious attitude is harmful enough to jeopardize their family and home, the Quran advises him to restrain his anger, allowing him to only admonish his wife in order to convince her with dialogue. If admonishing does not work, the Quran advises the man to contin-

ue to curb his anger and ego, leaving his wife alone in her bed so that she can think over her attitude without any fear that her husband could physically hurt her. This time period could be four months at the most, during which the wife is free to either leave the husband by seeking divorce or reform her rebellious attitude. If, however, she chooses neither option and continues to revolt against her husband, only then, as a last resort, does the Quran allow the husband to chastise his wife, which could be either in the form of divorce or physical punishment. When Prophet Muhammad, who never beat any of his wives throughout his life, was questioned about physical chastisement, he answered if a Muslim ever had to physically chastise his wife he should do it so gently that it leaves no mark on her skin. This reminds me of Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" in which Shylock insisted to take one pound of flesh from Antonio's body as decreed by law but could not actually do so when told to take the flesh without a single drop of blood.

In fact, the verse which critics use to blame the Quran, stops men from ever raising their hands to hurt the women they love and leaves no excuse for a Muslim man to beat his wife to vent out his anger.

Eventually, when it made sense to my daughter, she spurted out, "Yeah, Baba! men should really take this advice to control their anger instead of controlling their wives."

M. Imran Hayee is a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Minnesota Duluth (d.umn.edu/~ihayee). He belongs to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of USA.

HOLY QUR'AN – THE GUIDANCE FOR THE RIGHTEOUS

Anwer Khan

(Speech delivered at Jalsa Salana West Coast)

الْمِ

ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

Alf Lam Mim (I am Allah, the All-Knowing). This is a perfect Book; there is no doubt in it; it is a guide for the righteous (2:2-3)

Bahare Jawidan Paida hey Uski Hur Ibarat mein, Na wo khoobi chaman mein hay na us sa koi Bustan hai.

Every passage of this Scripture, every single verse in it is replete with the color and charm and depth of an everlasting spring.

This excellence and beauty is not to be found in any garden or any park.

Seeking guidance is an inherent trait of all humans; every one of us is in need of guidance in every walk of our lives. The perfect guidance is the one that takes one from the start to finish. Holy Quran claims that the purpose of this Holy Book is to provide guidance for the righteous. Allah Says:

I am Allah the all knowing who has bestowed this perfect book, which has no doubt in it and is the guidance for the righteous. Then it defines the righteous as those who believe in the unseen, observe prayers and spend in the way of Allah what they have been provided.

The first glance at these verses raises a fundamental question in one's mind that if a righteous posses these three qualities they are already guided what additional guidance they would need. Here Allah does not say *Hudal Lil Fasiqueen*, which means guidance for the rebellious, or *Hudal Lil kafireen* that means guidance for the infidels, it categorically states *Hudal lil Muttaqueen* that means guidance for the righteous. This means that the Guidance bestowed through this book is different than the basic state of righteousness they already posses. The three characteristics that are mentioned of righteous are prevalent in millions of people who profess to follow Vedas, Torah and Gospel so what has been specially added by the Holy Quran that is already not in existence. There are Christians, Hindus, Buddhist and the Jews who observe prayers, believe in the unseen and spend when they are presented the opportunities, so what is the difference.

In the next 17 minutes, I will present to you Hadhrat Ahmad's^{as} commentary on this expression that how these basic traits when follow the associate commandments, bring about a sublime change in the person and his entire being is changed to a high spiritual level. Hadhrat Ahmad^{as} even go so far to say that following quranic injunctions to the letter can make you prophet like in spiritual terms.

Here a person benignly believe in the unseen observe Salat with a lukewarm heart and spend in the way of Allah only sparingly and with difficulty completely changes and begin to speak with the Divine after a sincere practice. Of all the commentators of the Quran, only Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} who has resolved this ambiguity and has demonstrated beyond the shadow of doubt that this guidance is quite different that has been referred in this beautiful expression so much so that he has made a strong claim that an expression *Hudal Lil Muttaqueen* is so incredible that a like or match of it is not to be found in any Scripture. He further declared that Allah has

bestowed the true insight of this expression Himself. Let me share a few excerpts.

غایت تو یہ بتاتی ہے کہ یٰ اَلسَّامِعِیْنَ اور پھر متقیوں کے صفات بھی وہ بیان کیے جو سب کے سب ایک با خدا انسان میں ہوتے ہیں یعنی خدا پر ایمان لانا ہو۔ نماز پڑھنا ہو۔ صدقہ دینا ہو کتاب اللہ کو ماننا ہو۔ قیامت پر یقین رکھنا ہو پھر جو شخص پہلے ہی سے ان صفات سے متصف رہے، اور وہ متقی کہلاتا ہے اور ان امور کا پابند ہے تو پھر وہ ہدایت کیا ہوئی؟ جو اس کتاب کے ذریعہ اس نے حاصل کی اس میں وہ امر زائد کیا ہے جس کے لیے یہ کتاب نازل ہوئی ہے؟ اس سے صاف معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ وہ کوئی اور امر ہے جو اس ہدایت میں رکھا گیا ہے۔ کیونکہ یہ امور جو بطور صفات متقین بیان فرمائے ہیں یہ تو اس ہدایت کے لیے جو اس کتاب کا اصل مقصد اور غرض ہے بطور شرط پرچہ ورنہ وہ ہدایت اور چیز ہے اور وہ ایک اعلیٰ امر ہے جو خدا تعالیٰ نے مجھ پر ظاہر کیا ہے اور جس کو میں بیان کرتا ہوں

The purpose of the Holy Quran was described as the guidance for the righteous and the definition of righteous includes the three ingredients which are essentials for being a *Muttaqi*, like he should believe in God, offer *Salat*, believe in the book of Allah and the day of judgment. If he possesses all these qualities and is known as *Muttaqi* then what that additional guidance there is that they would get from the Holy Quran. This clearly shows that this guidance is something else that is expressed in the word *Hidayat*. That guidance is something different and sublime that Allah has revealed upon me and I will relate

پس یاد رکھو کہ متقی کی صفات میں سے پہلی صفت یہ بیان کی گئی مَنُونٌ بِالْغِیْبِ یعنی غیب پر ایمان لاتے ہیں یہ مومن کی نیک ابتدائی حالت کا اظہار ہے کہ جن چیزوں کو اس نے نہیں دیکھا ان کو مان لیا ہے۔ غیب اللہ تعالیٰ کا نام ہے اور اس غیب میں بہشت۔ دوزخ۔ مشر اجساد اور وہ تمام امور جو ابھی تک پردہ غیب میں ہیں شامل ہیں۔ اب ابتدائی حالت میں تو مومن اللہ پر ایمان لانا ہے لیکن ہدایت یہ ہے کہ اس حالت پر اسے ایک نعام عطا ہوتا ہے اور وہ یہ ہے کہ اس کا علم غیب سے انتقال کر کے شہود کی طرف آجاتا ہے اور اس پر پھر ایسا زمانہ آجاتا ہے کہ جن باتوں پر وہ پہلے غائب کے طور پر ایمان لانا تھا وہ ان کا عارف ہو جاتا ہے اور وہ امور جو ابھی تک مخفی تھے اس کے سامنے آجاتے ہیں اور حالت شہود میں انہیں دیکھتا ہے پھر وہ خدا کو غیب نہیں مانتا بلکہ اسے دیکھتا ہے اور اس کی تجلّی سامنے رہتی ہے

The first characteristic of a *Muttaqi* is that he believes in the unseen. This is the initial stage of a *Muttaqi* when he believes in the matters unseen like God, His Angels and the Day of Judgment. For this faith he gets a reward from Allah and that is, his belief of the unseen converts over a period of time to 'seen', all those items that were hidden become manifest for him so his faith is uplifted to deeper insight and this how his *Eeman* becomes *Irfan*. Thus the reward of his belief of the unseen with perseverance results in his deep conviction about God that no longer is hidden but he is able to experience it as if he has personally seen God.

The single most and probably the most important contribution of Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani^{as} is that he stated that not only in early stages the *Muttaqi* believe in the unseen but the real *Hidayat* they get is they attain a level of Righteousness that they experience Allah's communication in their present lives he says

Who Khuda Ab bhi banata hay bisay chahay kaleem
Ab bhi Us Se Bolta hey jis se karta hey wo pyar

Even now the Lord God turns into *Kaleem* (the one who speaks) whomsoever He likes. Indeed He speaks to those whom He is pleased to bless and hold dear.

This guidance that lifts the righteous from their basic stage to a living stage of speaking with the Divine is only limited to the Holy Quran and other Scriptures are silent in this regard.

The second characteristic is that they offer *Salat*, the guidance they receive converts this first stage of offering *Salat* to a stage where they can not live without *Salat*. *Salat* becomes their daily food without which they can not survive. There are 51 commandments about *Salat* in the Holy Quran when a beginner begins to follow these commandments to the letter; he is bestowed with an awe and majesty by Allah and this *Salat* becomes part and parcel of his life. For example one commandment, Allah says: *Innas Salata Kanat Alal Momineena Kitabum Mauqoota*

The *Salat* is prescribed to be offered at the fixed timings, let me show you three examples of Righteous people who excelled through the practice of this commandment to the letter and spirit and received instant rewards from Allah the Merciful.

خیال تک نہ لاتے۔ چنانچہ خود فرماتے ہیں:

”میں بٹالہ ایک مقدمہ کی پیروی کے لئے گیا۔ نماز کا وقت ہو گیا اور میں نماز پڑھنے لگا۔ چنانچہ اسی نے آواز دی مگر میں نماز میں تھا فرق ثانی پیش ہو گیا اور اس نے ایک طرفہ کارروائی سے فائدہ اٹھانا چاہا اور بہت زور اس بات پر دیا۔ مگر عدالت نے پرواہ کی اور مقدمہ اس کے خلاف کر دیا اور مجھے ڈگری دے دی۔ میں جب نماز سے فارغ ہو کر گیا تو مجھے خیال تھا کہ شاید حاکم نے قانونی طور پر میری غیر حاضری کو دیکھا ہو۔ مگر جب میں حاضر ہوا اور میں نے کہا کہ میں تو نماز پڑھ رہا تھا تو اس نے کہا کہ میں تو آپ کو ڈگری دے چکا ہوں۔“ [۱۷]

Tareekh-e-Ahmadiyyat Volume 1)

عدالت سے غیر حاضری کے باوجود آپ کے حق میں فیصلہ ہو جانا ایک بھاری الٰہی نشان تھا جو آپ کے کمال درجہ انتفاع و اجتہاد کے نتیجہ میں نمودار ہوا۔

Once Hadhrat Ahmad^{as} went to Batala for some court case, while he was in court, the *Salat* time began, he went out and began saying *Salat*, while he was engaged in *Salat*, the servant called that the hearing has begun, Hazoor^{as} continued his Prayers. The opposition took advantage of the absence and presented their point of view with this assertion that the defense is not present and the judge may decide the case in their favor. The judge still decided in Ahmad's favor. When Hazoor^{as} entered the court he said to the judge that he was engaged in *Salat*, the judge responded, the case has been decided in your favor.

Another Arif Billah, a disciple of Hadhrat Ahmad^{as} tainted with the same devotion to *namaz*, Maulvi Nuriddin missed the *Zuhr* time and was so saddened and concerned that he enter *Masjid-e-Nabwai* and went to an area known for the acceptance of prayers and ardently apologized for missing the time for *Zuhr* and if Allah the merciful would forgive him for this sin. The intensity of his grief was so great that he refers to the verse of Holy *Quran La Taqnotu Min Rahmatillah*. Which means do not despair from the Mercy of Allah.

A third example is one of the later companions of Hadhrat Ahmad^{as}, namely Ch. Mohammad Zafrulla Khan^{ra}, who, during his meeting with the Queen of England began to see his watch, that was considered disrespectful to the Queen. He explained that his prayer time arrived during this meeting and he was conscious of that. This created such an impact that the Queen ordered that for Zafrulla Khan^{ra} arrangements should be made when he comes so he does not miss his prayer time.

These examples shed light on the significance of following the commandment of Allah to the letter and with an absolute perseverance, which will bring forth such fruits as Molvi Nuruddin raised up to, the level of Khalifatul Masih and Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IVth gave Zafrulla Khan^{ra} the title *Kalimatullah*.

The third quality of a *Muttaqui* is that they spend in the way of Allah. When this stage progresses due to the guidance received from Quran then the word *Mimma* is deleted from their minds as they do not consider anything of their own and every thing a *Muttaqui* has becomes God's possession in his mind hence he has no hesitation to spend whatever he has.

اس حالت اور مقام پر جب ایک شخص پہنچتا ہے تو اس میں شمار ہوتا ہی نہیں کیونکہ جب تک وہ ہمتا کی حد کے اندر ہے اس وقت تک وہ ناقص ہے اور اس علت غائی تک نہیں پہنچا جو قرآن مجید کی ہے لیکن کامل اسی وقت ہوتا ہے جب یہ حد نہ رہے اور اس کا وجود اس کا ہر فعل ہر حرکت و سکون محض اللہ تعالیٰ کے حکم اور اذن کے تحت بنی نوع انسان کی بھلائی کے لیے وقف ہو۔ دوسرے لفظوں میں یہ کہو کہ ہمتا رزقہم یتفقون کا کامل یہی ہے جو ہدیٰ المستغین کے منشاء کے موافق ہے

The best example of spending whatever one has been described in the Holy Quran thus:

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٣٦﴾

Say, 'My Prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are *all* for Allah, the Lord of the worlds. (6:163)

This is the zenith of *Mimma Razaqnahum Yunfiquoon*.
Every particle of his being was reserved for God alone.

Coming back to the fact that the following Quranic commandment is the pathway to paradise. Hadhrat Ahmad said: "Be alert all the time and do not take a single step contrary to Divine teaching and the guidance of the Quran. I tell you truly that anyone who evades the least one of the 700 commandments of the Quran, shuts upon himself the door of salvation.

Let me take two commandments alone. We know from the Holy Quran that gambling is prohibited; I wanted to search this prohibition in other Scriptures. After exhausting my search on the internet I went to a Cavalry Church Book shop and spent 75 minutes to find one verse from the Bible, Old or New Testament and discussed my need with three priests of the bookstore, all they said, alas we can not find one verse that categorically forbids its followers to indulge in Gambling, there are other verses from which we can derive this prohibition. Such is the case of biblical teachings they claim to be the cure of our moral ailments but fail to provide a cure.

Another guidance that is prescribed by the New Testament is that of forgiveness or turning the other cheek, an example from Pakistan and another one from Malaysia:

First Pakistan. One priest was engaged in forceful presentation of the teachings of Forgiveness by reading 'the turn the other cheek parable.' A man from the audience rushed from his chair and reached the podium and slapped the priest who was totally perplexed and taken back, the man said please turn your other cheek. It happened while I was also in attendance at St. Joseph's church. Second, I was in Malaysia giving a Sales training to forty Asian salesman in our products, one salesman said that he has to leave early and sought permission. I simply said that after the classes pick up the slides from my room. He came to my room and when asked why he had to leave he responded, I am turning to a Christian today. I asked why, he said because of my wife. I then enquired about the Holy Books Mahayana and the Bible. I asked about if he has heard these two teachings turn the other cheek and eye for an eye. He affirmed. I then related the story of the night stalker in LA, should he be punished or forgiven. He said punished, then I asked him about a thief who picked up candy from a store, should he be put behind bars or counseled or forgiven. He told me to do the later. Then I said what you simply responded to is common sense, that the night stalker should be punished or else he will kill more, and the shop lifter should be counseled so he will not do it again. Then I read the verse from *Surah Shura*

وَجَزَاءُ سَيِّئَةٍ سَيِّئَةٌ مِّثْلُهَا ۚ فَمَنْ عَفَا وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ ۗ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٤١﴾

And the recompense of an injury is an injury the like thereof; but whoso forgives and *his act* brings about reformation, his reward is with Allah. Surely, He loves not the wrongdoers. (42:41)

I explained that in this verse Allah has stated that if reformation can be achieved by forgiveness, forgive the person, but if it could be only achieved through punishment, then punish the person. The objective is reformation.

He was moved by this verse and called from my hotel room to his wife that I have found a book better than your Bible and I will bring it home and we will read it together. This gentleman is now an Ahmadi Muslim with his entire family.

Those who are good-natured are drawn to this Holy Scripture proving that truly this is the guidance for the righteous. Explaining the beauty of the Holy Quran Hadhrat Ahmad^{ra} has pointed out that the perfect book entails the sublime character and supreme conduct of the recipient and this is the reason the Holy Quran was revealed to the Holy Prophet Mohammad^{sw}. He says:

Divine revelation is a mirror in which the perfect attributes of God Almighty are seen, according to the inner cleanliness of the Prophet who is the recipient of the revelation. As the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allāh be on him] was higher than all the other Prophets in the purity of his soul, the expansion of his mind, his chastity, modesty, sincerity, trust, fidelity and love of the Divine, God, the Glorious, anointed him with the perfume of special excellence in excess of any other Prophet. His bosom and heart which were broader and holier and more innocent and brighter and more loving than the bosom and heart of any who had passed before him, and who were to come after him, were considered worthy that such Divine revelation should descend upon him as should be stronger and more perfect, higher and more complete, than the revelation vouchsafed to all those who were before him and all those who were to come after him, and which should serve as a clear, wide and large mirror for reflecting Divine attributes. That is why the Holy Qur'ān possesses such high excellences that the brightness of all previous books is cast into the shade before its fierce and brilliant rays. No mind can put forth a verity which is not already contained in it and no reason can present any argument which is not already presented in it. No speech can affect the hearts so powerfully as the strong and full of blessings effect it produces upon millions of hearts. Undoubtedly it is a clear mirror reflecting the perfect attributes of the Divine in which all is found that is needed by a seeker to arrive at the highest grades of understanding.

[Surmah Chashm Āryā, Rūhānī Khazā'in, Vol. 2, pp. 71-72, footnote]

This is what *Hudallil Muttageen* means:

Dil mein yehi hai har dam taira saheefa choomoon
Quran ke gird ghoomoon, Ka'bah niera yehi hai

My heart yearns every moment to kiss Thy Book and to perform circuit around the Holy Quran for it is my
Ka'bah

OLIVE A HOLY PLANT WITH SEVERAL BENEFITS TO HUMAN HEALTH

Nasir S. A. Malik, National Agriculture Secretary USA

The olive is predominantly a Mediterranean evergreen fruit tree which is now cultivated in various countries in Asia, Australia, Africa, America and Europe. It is one of the oldest cultivated plants as some reports indicate its cultivation as far back as 5000-6000 years. In the Bible (Gen.8:11) it is mentioned that when the dove returned to Noah she had an olive branch in her beak symbolizing peace. Thus, the term "offering the olive branch" was coined for peace. The "Great Seal of the United States" has an olive branch held in the right talon of the eagle representing power of peace.

In the Quran, the olive is mentioned multiple times, and there is a *Hadith* from Al-Tirmidhi that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: **"Eat the oil and use it on your hair and skin, for it comes from a blessed tree."** Consistent with this *Hadith*, modern research has now proven several health benefits of olive oil, and its usefulness on the skin. The olive has also been mentioned numerous times in the Bible and is considered a very holy tree. I recall that in December of 2009 I was invited to Nazareth in Israel for giving a presentation on my research on olives (1). In Nazareth, I asked to visit historical shrines. When we reached the "Church of Agony" in Jerusalem (where Jesus had his last supper) the door was closed because we were late in the evening. Our host, a Jewish scientist, however, described that the Pope had given him special privileges to visit the church anytime because he was responsible for reviv-

ing olive trees inside the church that were dying and the Pope was concerned about those holy trees. The doors were therefore especially opened for us. In fact, olives are holy for Jews too. For example, about 7 years ago I received a call from a local nurseryman in Weslaco TX to help him set up an olive nursery from cuttings. The gardener informed me that he had received olive cuttings from Israel by a group of Israelis who want to produce the holy plant so that Jewish homes could be blessed by growing small trees inside their homes. In Jerusalem, they showed me live olive trees elevated several feet high in the sky on pillars; perhaps a symbol of respect and art. [Everyone in southern US should grow olive in their backyard to harness health benefits from its leaves.]

In America, missionaries with early settlers brought olive trees and planted them in California from where their cultivation started in US. However, consumption of olive oil in America remained minimal until 1983 when it started to take off significantly and continues to increase every year as the public becomes aware of its health benefits. For example, US imported 9.5 million gallons of olive oil in 1989 and now it is imports are reaching about 100 million gallons (i.e., multi-billion \$ market).

The potential for olive oil consumption in America based on per capita consumption in Greece is about 800-1000 million gallons; i.e. we still have a long way to go. Before 2007 less than 1% of olive oil consumed in US was produced in the US; primarily in California. Production of olives in Texas was strongly discouraged by early scientists, but my research has shown that it would be feasible to grow along the Texas coastline north of Corpus Christy all the way to Louisiana and beyond (1). And now thousands of trees are being planted there. California farmers have also boosted their plantation of olive trees and hence the contribution of US produced olive oil among total olive oil consumed has reached to about 3 percent which is still pretty low.

Most consumers consider olive oil as the primary product of olive tree for health benefits, but the leaves of olive trees are also loaded with health benefiting compounds; i.e. specific polyphenols found in olive species. Even the major health benefits attributed to olive oil are mainly because of the presence of polyphenols (2). Strictly based on the quality of oil itself olive oil may not be better than some other oils such as soybean or canola. For example, edible oils are mixtures of fatty acids, and if an oil contains more saturated fatty acids (e.g., stearic acid and palmitic acid) than unsaturated fatty acids (e.g. oleic acid, linoleic acid) then it is less healthy compared to the one that has more unsaturated fatty acid; and of

course, as far as linolenic acid (omega 3) is concerned the more the better. Now if we look at the levels of fatty acids in olive oil versus canola oil we will find that in both oils saturated fatty acids are equally low and unsaturated fatty acids are similarly higher, but the canola oil has the advantage of having 10 times more omega 3 oil compared to olive oil (1 and 3). Similarly, soybean oil is also rich in unsaturated fatty acids and almost as high in omega 3 oil as it is in canola. So, does this mean that soybean and canola are better oils than olive oil? The answer is a big NO. The reason is that olive oil is much more than just oil. In reality, olive oil is a juice whereas canola and soybean are simply oils. To understand the difference in the two terms I just mentioned you need to know the processes how these oils are obtained.

Soybean, corn, and canola oils are obtained by extracting with organic solvents such as hexane; and therefore, water soluble compounds (such as health benefitting polyphenols) do not get extracted in the oil. On the other hand, olive oil is a juice because it is extracted by simply pressing the ripe olive fruits; this is done in the cold to prevent oxidation of fatty acids. After malaxation of ripe olives, the oil mixed with water is centrifuged to separate oil and water layers and then the oil layer is syphoned off. During this extraction process small amount of water and the healthy compounds (i.e., polyphenols) remain mixed or dispersed within the olive oil. Almost all powerful health benefits that are attributed to olive oil are due to this class of compounds. Thus, olive oil is superior to soybean, corn, or canola oils because it contains polyphenols (many of which are unique to olive trees) that the other oil don't

contain. Here it is important to mention that it is advisable that consumers should always buy a good brand of extra virgin olive oil. Extra virgin grade signifies maximal inclusion of polyphenols. It is not a good idea to buy light or lower grade olive oil because usually those grades do not contain health benefitting polyphenols. Tests in my laboratory confirmed the absence of polyphenols in light and lower grade oils. After cold pressing extra virgin olive oil the remaining pulp or pomace is extracted with organic solvents that gives additional light oil which lacks polyphenols.

Of all the polyphenols unique to olive, oleuropein has been most extensively studied for its several health benefits. For example, this compound has been reported to reduce platelet aggregation and hence increase blood flow and reduce hypertension; clinical trials have demonstrated reduction in blood pressure via oleuropein administration. Being a strong anti-oxidant it prevents the oxidation of LDL and coupled with its anti-inflammatory effects it reduces the incidences of coronary diseases. Several studies show that oleuropein strongly decreases breast cancer. These antitumor effects were shown by both pure oleuropein as well as via crude olive extracts containing oleuropein. Claims have been made that oleuropein could also be a powerful antiviral agent, and a patent has been granted for the use of olive leaf extracts for this purpose. Thus, while preparations containing oleuropein can be useful for ailments like herpes and hepatitis, patients of AIDS have

also used it to boost their immune system, reduce fatigue and enhance the effect of anti-HIV medicine. A group of scientist in New York and Harvard medical schools has obtained very encouraging results regarding the anti-HIV effects of olive leaf extracts.

Oleuropein is the most abundant polyphenol among all other polyphenols in various parts of the olive tree but it is not the major component of polyphenols in olive oil. This is because the levels of oleuropein increase with fruit development attaining maximum level in fully developed green olive fruits but when fruits begin to mature and change color to brown then oleuropein levels begin to decline drastically (5). Therefore, depending upon the proportion of green olives included in the harvest the levels of oleuropein will fluctuate in different oils; of course other factor such as processing would also influence oleuropein levels. Probably, decline in oleuropein levels in mature fruits and hence in oil is a good thing because oleuropein is very bitter and olive oil has to be palatable to eat it raw. Anyway, the decline in oleuropein levels is usually due to its conversion into tyrosol and hydroxytyrosol. These smaller molecules are not bitter but have similar beneficial effects for heart, blood pressure and have anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, and anti-viral effects. When I travelled through Portugal and Spain I noticed that people of Mediterranean countries eat olive oil straight out of the bottle and pour it on their toasts, sprinkle on salads or apply topically on baked food; that is the best way to maximize the benefits from olive oil. So, select the brand of olive oil that suits your taste. Always avoid deep frying with olive oil, and try no more than stir frying.

The *Hadith* described above not only recommended eating olive oil but it also suggested applying on skin and hair. Again, this is because of the antioxidant and anti-aging effect of its specific polyphenols. Although, most of the olive polyphenols will benefit skin due to their anti-oxidant and anti-aging effect but the polyphenol named verbascoside in most prominent for dermatological uses. Studies have shown that verbascoside helps skin repair and improves skin inflammation, and therefore, in addition to be a good sunscreen it could actually repair skin damage.

Polyphenols, including oleuropein and verbascoside, are abundantly found in olive leaves. Therefore, I conducted several studies to find simple ways of extraction and use of olive leaf polyphenols for home consumers (4). First, do not freeze olive leaves before extracting health benefitting polyphenols. Thawing frozen olive leaves at room temperature for even a few minute would drastically degrade oleuropein. The best way to preserve polyphenols in olive leaves for extraction is to dry them at room temperature under shade; drying in sun or oven will also degrade polyphenols. Dried leaves then can be pulverized using home coffee grinder, or food processor with a few drops of olive oil to reduce dust production. The powdered olive leaves can be boiled for five minute to extract polyphenols in the form of olive tea. However, this extract could be bitter depending upon how much powder was used, so to make it pleasant one could dilute the extract with other health benefitting juices such as pomegranate or cranberry juices. The other method for daily use is to

extract in coffee maker along with tea and coffee adjusted to one's personal taste. I use olive leaf powder while making my tea in the office twice a day.

My presentation as webinar <http://texasoliveoilcouncil.org/conferences/2013/09/presentations/presentation1.html>
My interview with Washington Post <http://www.startelegram.com/2012/09/28/4296089/how-to-get-all-the-benefits-of.html>.

Lee et al 1998 Analytical Chemica Acta 358: 163-175).

Malik, N. S. A and J. Bradford 2008, J. Food Agric. Environ. 6:8-13

Malik, N. S. A. and J. Bradford 2006, Scientia. Hort. 110:274-278

FASTING

Hadhrat Anas^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "Take breakfast before the fast begins; there is blessing in breakfast."

(*Bukhari kitabussaum, Muslim*)

Hadhrat 'Umar^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "When the night approaches and the day retreats and the sun has set, the one observing the fast should break it."

(*Bukhari kitabussaum*)

Hadhrat Sahl bin Sa'd^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "My people will adhere to good as long as they do not delay the breaking of the fast."

(*Bukhari kitabussaum*)

SAD NEWS

Faheem Younus Qureshi Serving Majlis Ansarullah, USA

It is with anguish that I share with you the news of the martyrdom of one of our brothers. Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar of Columbus, OH *Majlis* has been martyred in Rabwah, Pakistan on May 26, 2014, at the age of 51,

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

Dr. Mehdi was leaving the *Bahishti Maqbarah*, with his wife and two-year old son around Fajr time when he was gunned down. He had arrived in Pakistan with his family a couple of days ago and was scheduled to volunteer at Tahir Heart Institute in Rabwah.

Funeral and burial details will be forthcoming. In the interim, let us pray for the dear departed that may Allah elevate his status in the highest echelons of paradise (*Jannatul Firdaus*) and may He grant patience and steadfastness to his family. Amin.

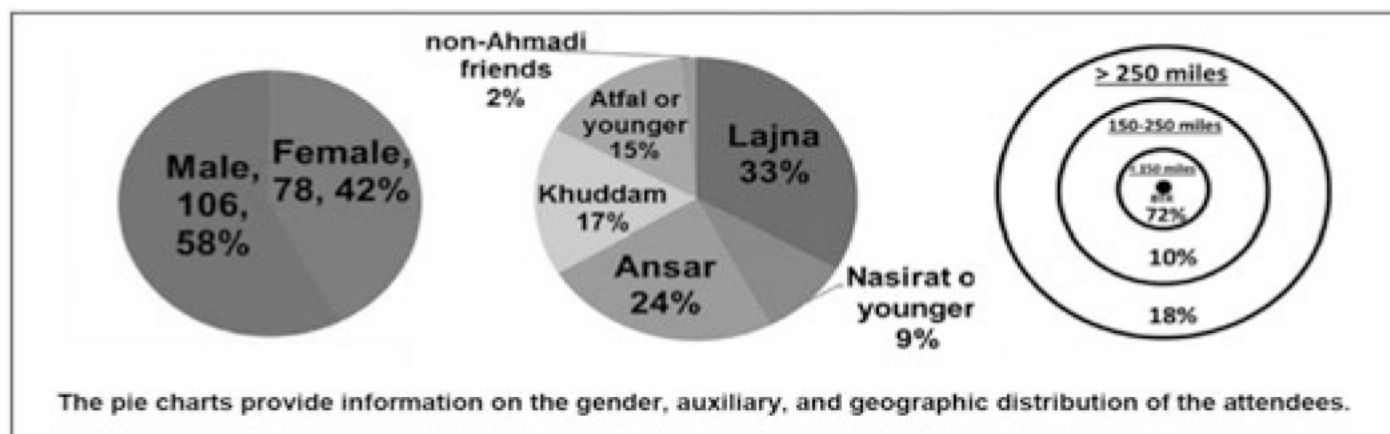
FASTING

Hadhrat Zaid bin Khalid Juhani^{ra} relates that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "He who provides for the breaking of the fast of another earns the same merit as the one who was observing the fast without diminishing in any way the reward of the one who is observing fast."

(*Tirmidhi kitabussaum bab fadl man fattara saima*)

REPORT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL QUR'AN AND SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM ENTITLED, "USING GUIDANCE FROM THE HOLY QUR'AN TO ADVANCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY."

Sohail Husain, MD, President of the Association of Ahmadiyya Muslim Scientists (AAMS) and Ijaz Ahmed, PhD (candidate)



The first annual Qur'an and Science Symposium was Organized by the Association of Ahmadiyya Muslim Scientists and held on Saturday, Nov. 23rd 2013 at Baitur Rahman Mosque, Silver Spring, MD, USA

Attendance

Alhamdulillah, there were a total of **184 registered attendees**, roughly split between the men and women and among the auxiliaries of *Jama'at*. Although most attendees lived within a 3 hour and 150 miles driving distance to Baitur Rahman Mosque, a sizeable number travelled from much further regions. A basic overview of our attendees is provided in the first three figures below.

An overview of each of the five sessions is provided below.

Session One

In the first session, entitled,

"Tapping into the treasures of the Quran for science," AAMS-USA President Dr. Sohail Husain read a special two-page message from Hazoor-e-Anwar^{aba} for the attendees of the Symposium. There were several key points mentioned by Hazoor, including

- (1) how the early Muslims excelled in the sciences due to the Holy Qur'an and the instructions of the Holy Prophet^{saw},
- (2) how the Promised Messiah^{as} came to revive Islam and point the believers again to the Holy Qur'an,
- (3) how our efforts will be blessed if we are conscious of Allah and seek His guidance,
- (4) specifically how, based on direct help from Allah, we can excel far beyond others

who operate only on the basis of effort and result, and

- (5) finally a prayer. The transcript of the letter and short video clips and power point slides of all of the talks are on the AAMS-USA website: www.muslimscientists.org.

Then respected **Naib Ameer Maulana Naseem Mahdi Sahib** delivered a short talk entitled, "**Tools to use the Qur'an in advancing science.**" In this talk, Mahdi Sahib highlighted *Ayatul Kursi* (2:256) in which Almighty Allah states that He reveals His "knowledge" or "treasures" to mankind through the Qur'an as He pleases. Mahdi Sahib remarked that there are thousands of scientists graduating every year. So how can we Ahmadi Muslim Scientists be different from the rest? He stated that we have an edge in science because we have the Holy Quran. It's up to us to ponder over insight from the Holy Qur'an to advance our scientific pursuits.

There were scientifically provocative and complementary talks by **Drs. Hameed Mirza**, PhD (**Methodologies of Research on the Qur'an**) and **Waseem Sayed**, PhD (**The Scientific Method from a Qur'anic angle**). Dr. Mirza presented some interesting facts about numerology in the Quran. He discussed the significance of the seven heavens and how they paralleled the presence of seven layers of the atmosphere as well as the same number of layers of the earth's crust. He also referred to *Surah Al-Hadid* (Chapter 57), which means "the iron," and made comparisons to the iron isotope " Fe^{57} ." Dr. Sayed emphasized that there is always an initial aspect of "faith" or "hypothesis" in every scientific endeavor. Without faith or a starting point, no hypothesis could be formulated or subsequently tested.

The attendees of the first session saw an exciting **short video clip** from MTA on the **first golden age of Islamic Science**, which highlighted the little known fact that many of the technologies we use today took root through the discoveries and inventions of the early Muslim scientists, a thousand years earlier.

Session Two

The second session, entitled, "**Ahmadi Muslim scientists in action**" was a unique opportunity for Ahmadi Muslim Scientists to present their active research work.

Dr. Sohail Husain, MD, an Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, in Pittsburgh, PA, spoke on "**Exploiting regeneration of the pancreas to treat pancreatic disorders**." He told an interesting story of how he had pondered over verses from *Sura Yasin* and *Sura Mu'minun* in order to come up with a hypothesis that there are key biological templates that regu-

late the ability of organs to regenerate. He stated that after further refining his initial hypothesis and generating some promising data, he actually submitted this idea from the Holy Qur'an as a research grant proposal to the US National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Then **Dr. Masood A. Shammas**, a PhD faculty member at Harvard Medical School, in Boston, MA, spoke on "**Studying DNA repair to treat cancer**." He stated that he was astounded to read how the Holy Qur'an describes the process of repair in detailed ways and how the concepts relate to his own technical interests in DNA repair.

Dr. Ijaz Ahmed, a PhD candidate at Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, spoke on "**Rapid Synthesis of BINOL Derivatives: Making valuable organic compounds more efficiently**." He referred to *Sura Al-Hadid* (57:26) about iron being beneficial for mankind and then expounded on a technique he is optimizing to synthesize organic derivatives that utilize iron and related metals.

Mr. Abraham Orabi, BS, a member of the Husain Lab at the University of Pittsburgh, spoke on "**Calcium targets in pancreatitis**." He referred to a verse from *Sura An-Nahl* of how Almighty Allah has provided colors of varying hues as a benefit for mankind. Recent Nobel Prize work in fluorescent compounds of various types has allowed the scientific community to make seminal discoveries about the behavior of a host of

signaling molecules. Mr. Orabi gave an overview of the recent discoveries of calcium signaling in the context of pathological signaling in the pancreas.

The next presentation was by **Dr. Chairul Bahri**, PhD, and it was entitled, "**His Throne is carried by eight angels: The search for simplicity in complex systems**." Dr. Bahri spoke on the unification of the forces of nature and discussed the importance of the number eight in the Holy Qur'an and in physics.

The session ended with a robust round of questions and answers. An important take home message from Mahdi Sahib was that, although numerology is important and interesting, one must be wary about getting side-tracked or lost in numerology. The study of numbers requires great insight and prayer.

Session Three

After *Salat* and a wonderful lunch served by the *Ziyafat* team at Baitur Rahman Mosque, there was an exciting and competitive poster session separately held and judged by the women and the men. In total, there were about a dozen posters presented. The poster winners were:

Women's Poster Session Winners

1. "A Neighbors Tick Bite and the Risk of Lyme" by Ihaam Ahmad Husain, Pittsburgh, PA
2. (tied) "Raman Spectroscopy of Graphene Oxide" by Sana Mansoor
2. (tied) "Cryptic Genetic Variation in Three-spined Stickleback Fish" by Sadia Mansoor Tahir

Men's Poster Session Winners

1. "Our NYPD Story, Using the Holy Quran: Till when they reach it,

their ears, and their eyes, and their skins will bear witness against them as to what they had been doing” by Adnan Alladin and Mueez Ahmad, Long Island, NY

2. “The Gravity Test” by Hisham Virk
3. “Can Plants Grow without Soil?” by Taha Hayee

Session Four

After a welcome tea break, we launched into the final scientific session entitled, “**So you want to be a scientist.**” Dr. Tahir Ahmed, MD (candidate), PhD, from Harvard Medical School, in Boston, MA, spoke on educational career options in science. His talk entitled, “**To be a PhD or an MD, that is the question**” borrowed a little (in the title) from Shakespeare. But it really stressed through personal experience that prayer is the key to achieving the greatest heights in education. He also explained the importance of establishing a strong bond with *Khilafat*.

Dr. Sohail Husain then went into the nuts and bolts of “**Scientific writing made easy.**” He joked that even if you’re writing about rocket science, writing is not rocket science. Writing is actually easy if you go over some key steps in the writing process, which he tried to provide. For example, he quoted Mark Twain: “Writing is easy; you just have to cross out the wrong words.” He ended by stating that in the process of getting papers and grants accepted, an Ahmadi Muslim Scientist needs to exhibit both patience and prayer. The overwhelming message to our young people was that we have a legacy for good writing because the Imam of the Age was given the title by God of the “Master of the Pen.”

Next Dr. Fizan Abdullah, MD, PhD, at Johns Hopkins University

School of Medicine, in Baltimore, MD spoke on “**Achieving academic success.**” He told the story of how, by the grace of Allah, Professor Abdus Salam achieved the highest levels of academic success, despite so many odds. He emphasized that we need to follow that same path to success through prayer and reflection on the Holy Quran.

The session ended with a brief address by respected Ameer Sahib, Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, MD, about the fact that **science really emanates from God** and, as such, we need to seek God’s help in the pursuit of science. Ameer Sahib reiterated the instructions of the Holy Prophet^{saw} that the pursuit of learning should be the duty of every Muslim man and woman.

Session Five

The final session was entitled, “**Our next steps as a scientific society.**” Dr. Sohail Husain provided a summary of the meeting, thanked the organizers, and suggested plans for the next meeting. Mahdi Sahib explained that Hazoor’s special written message stated that the Qur’an and Science Symposium was the “first” and “annual” meeting, which clearly indicates Hazoor’s desire to continue annual meetings of this type.

Dr. Husain also summarized a *mulaqat* from last summer with *Hazoor-e-Anwer*, in which Huzur asked that **US Ahmadi Muslim Scientists should present their research during Hazoor’s next visit to the US**, should time allow.

Mahdi Sahib stated that Ahmadi are in a strong position to eliminate the divide between science and religion in America. We need to plan out symposia that deal with the Holy Quran and topics such as Evolution. Ahmadi Muslim Scientists also need to tip the balance by highlighting their successes that are based on their faith. *Hazoor-e-Anwer* said during a visit to Ghana a few years back that “**the Nobel Prize is a minimum target.**” Thus, there is no limit to the successes in the sciences for Ahmadi.

Respected Naib Ameer Masoud Malik Sahib emphasized that all Ahmadi youth in America should consider higher learning and that their parents should actively encourage their children towards the path of scholarship.

The Symposium ended with *Salat* and a delectable dinner.

Post-meeting notes after the 1st Symposium and plans for the 2nd Symposium

Please save the date. *Alhamdulillah* we have finalized a tentative date and location for the next Quran and Science Symposium, which is **Saturday November 15th, 2014** (2 weeks before Thanksgiving weekend), again at **Baitur Rahman Mosque**.

Based on feedback, we will *Insha Allah* replicate many aspects of the program from the 1st Symposium, along with some key improvements: (1) Aim for a slightly smaller time frame. End an hour earlier in order to allow attendees who have a 2-3 hour commute to drive home at a reasonable time. We may delete the last administrative session and hold 2 sessions in the morning and 2 in the evening. (2) Provide keynote speakers a little more than 15-20 min, but not much more. (3) Consider a dedicated session on the

Holy Quran's view on Evolution or Genetic Engineering, or both. (4) Work on enhancing the participation of engineering researchers and computer scientists. Our target audience is still mostly Ahmadi for now, although guest attendees and speakers are welcome. Note that the primary objective is to stimulate Ahmadi Muslims to incorporating the Quran in their scientific advancement.

Finally, below is a representation of just some of the highly positive feedback we have received about the Symposium:

"[This is] just another testament as to how well organized the community is. [I] will definitely share this with my family and friends. **I can't tell you how much I enjoyed this event.** [I] hope to attend for years to come." —From a Presenter and a Friend of Jama'at

Before this event, I did not know the extent to which Holy Quran could help me in my research on DNA repair. **Now by the grace of Allah, I have a completely new understanding and approach to my research.**" —From a Presenter "When you assigned me the task of looking through the Quran for science related verses, it actually got me a lot more regular in my *salat*. **I never really realized how fascinating our Holy Book is and how it can change someone in one day.** This organization has increased my faith even more in Islam and Ahmadiyyat." —From a Biology Student and Organizing team member.

Compiled by Dr. Sohail Husain, MD (muslim.scientists@ahmadiyya.us) and Ijaz Ahmed, PhD (candidate) (jaz677@gmail.com), serving as President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Scientists Association (www.muslimscientists.org) and Organizing Team member, respectively

SACRIFICE IN THE WAY OF ALLAH

Shoeb Abulkalam, NY

Faith cannot avail without sacrifice,
As we experience it's so hard to give up vice.
This material world is full of temptation,
Keeps us preoccupied, distracted from seeking redemption.
Success hides behind sacrificing bad habits and enjoyment,
Giving up your rank, your wealth is truly a sign of being benevolent.
Financial sacrifice helps one in this world and hereafter,
Your wealth will also multiply as promised by our Master.
Committing suicide is the sinful way of sacrificing your life,
Hell will be expecting graciously to punish you for your strife.
A true believer dedicates his soul in the path of God completely,
He always applies himself doing righteous deeds wholeheartedly.
Hadrath Ibrahim^{as} set a high and noble example of sacrifice,
He was ready to sacrifice his son; obeying God's word was suffice.
Prophet Muhammad^{saw} devoted all his time winning the pleasure of God,
All his trust was with his Lord; he never made a self-decision without God's nod.
Serving in the way of God is a form of sacrifice as well,
Sacrificing time and knowledge for God is considered loyal.
Islam's image in this present world is in disorder,
True teachings of Islam are still waiting to prosper.
Islam will have the freshness and the life which it had before,
This sun will rise again in all its glory as it had risen before.
But restoration of Islam to life requires a true sacrifice from us all,
So wake up my brothers, feel Ahmadiyyat; revival of Islam, it's our only goal.

SUPPORT: HUMANITY FIRST

Press Release:

MILITANT EXTREMISTS IN PAKISTAN MURDER AMERICAN MUSLIM PHYSICIAN ON HUMANITARIAN MISSION

Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, a U.S. citizen and cardiologist, traveled from Columbus, Ohio to provide free cardiac care to the needy

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA today mourns the tragic passing of American physician and humanitarian, Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar. On May 26, 2014, Dr. Qamar, a 50-year old U.S. citizen and married father of three, was on Day 2 of a three-week medical mission in Rabwah, Pakistan, when militant extremists gunned him down in front of his wife and two-year-old son. Dr. Qamar was murdered because he was a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

In 1974, Pakistan passed a constitutional amendment declaring Ahmadi Muslims to be “non-Muslim.” In 1984, Pakistan passed anti-blasphemy and anti-Ahmadi laws criminalizing religious practices of Ahmadi Muslims, which are punishable by fine, imprisonment or capital punishment. To date, militant extremists have murdered hundreds of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan with impunity.

“Today, Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar, an American physician on a humanitarian mission has fallen victim to an unspeakable act of terrorism,” said Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah, National Vice President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. “Pakistan’s state-facilitated persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has emboldened militant extremists to engage in horrific acts of violence against Ahmadi Muslims and other religious minorities. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community implores Pakistan to abide by international human rights commitments, repeal all hate-filled anti-blasphemy and anti-Ahmadi laws and provide adequate security and police protections for vulnerable religious communities.”

As Muslims who believe in the Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community will continue to respond to premeditated crimes against humanity with peace, education, and prayers—as it has for over 125 years. As the world’s single largest Muslim community with a spiritual leader, we strive to demonstrate Islam’s true teachings of moderation, tolerance, and love. We express our deepest condolences to Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar’s wife, children, and extended family, and hope the perpetrators are swiftly held accountable.

About Ahmadiyya Muslim Community: Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, reformist and fast-growing international movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, the Community spans more than 200 countries with membership exceeding tens of millions. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, established in 1920, is among the first American-Muslim organizations.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the only Islamic organization to believe that the long-awaited messiah has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) of Qadian, India. Ahmad claimed to be the metaphorical second coming of Jesus of Nazareth and the divine guide, whose advent was foretold by the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad. The Community believes that God sent Ahmad, like Jesus, to end religious wars, condemn bloodshed and reinstitute morality, justice and peace. Ahmad’s advent has brought about an unprecedented era of Islamic revival and moderation. He divested Muslims of fanatical beliefs and practices by vigorously championing Islam’s true and essential teachings.

HUMANITY FIRST USA

GIFT OF SIGHT 2013 EYE CAMP

Ahsan M. Khan

By the Grace of Allah, the fourth annual eye camp in Guatemala took place under the Gift of Sight initiative of Humanity First USA from November 2-9, 2013. The camp was held in Antigua, Guatemala. Antigua is a colonial city about 30 km from the major airport, and is the oldest city in the New World. The patients we treated were transported from remote villages comprising a mix of local Guatemalans and Mayans who lack access to basic medical care and who represent the poorest socioeconomic sectors of the surrounding area.

David Gonzalez, Director of Humanity First Guatemala, worked tirelessly for several months to prepare for our camp, and was supported by his team which included Abdul Sattar Khan (Amir and Missionary-in-Charge Guatemala) as well as Claudia Armas, Luisa Giron and Saifra Khan (Chicago).

This year's Gift of Sight team included Dr. Charles Bouchard (Chairman of Ophthalmology, Loyola University Chicago), Dr. Christina Mata (ophthalmology resident, Loyola), Dr. Ali Djalilian (Professor, University of Illinois-Chicago), Dr. Amir Mehralian (Corneal Fellow, University of Illinois-Chicago), Dr. Tayyeba Ali (Cornea Fellow at Bascolm Palmer Eye Institute in Miami), Dr. Iftikhar Ali (Internal Medicine/ER from Miami) and their two young daughters Zoya and Maryam, Juan Nunez (Ophthalmic Surgical Tech from LA), Dr. Saqib Ali (anesthesiologist from Cleveland), Rashida Rana (North Car-

olina) and her 8 year old son Haseeb Khan, Dr. Iqbal Majeed (Ophthalmic tech from Chicago), Paola Andreuzzi (Ophthalmic tech from Chicago), Kashif Malik (Phoenix), Uthman Villegas (Chicago), Mustefa Ahad Ahmad (Videographer from LA), and Maleeha Ahmad (Photographer from Augusta, GA). Dr. Ahsan Khan (LA) is the Director of Gift of Sight and headed the mission. Additional local support in Guatemala was provided by the Guatemalan *Jama'at*, including Margarita Asensio and Faiz Ahmed Qureshi.

Weekly conference calls were arranged leading up to the mission. Aysha Rahman Alburaiki (Assistant Director) was project coordinator and facilitated communication between team members, flight arrangements and travel logistics, volunteer forms, and collection of travel/housing funds, among other things. David Gonzalez was in constant communication with the team to ensure the clinic was appropriately set up in Guatemala. All planning was done under the oversight of Munum Naeem Sahib (Executive Director, HFUSA) and Dr. Mahmood Qureshi (Director of Operations, HF-USA). David Gonzalez arranged a triage clinic a few weeks prior to the camp. HF was able to recruit 4 ophthalmologists from IPC in Guatemala to evaluation patients. Several hundred patients were

screened and assigned to return to our clinic for eye exams and, when indicated, cataract and pterygium surgery.

Several ophthalmic companies donated eye medications and supplies to support our effort, including Abbott Labs/Advanced Medical Optics, Alcon Labs, Allergan, and Bausch & Lomb. HFUSA created a Gift of Sight webpage with an online donation system (usa.humanityfirst.org/giftofsight). In addition, many team members created personal webpages through First Giving and many raised substantial funds to cover the cost of travel, food and accommodations. A successful fundraiser, Night for Sight 2013, was held in Chicago in June and raised substantial donations to cover the expenses of the trip. The team spent the first day setting up the operating rooms and clinic. Humanity First banners were set up throughout the clinic. Many members of the clinic were given HF T-shirts, and coloring books and crayons were provided to the many children who visited the clinic throughout the week.

In all, over 50 surgeries were performed during the week. All surgical patients were examined the following morning by the surgeons and given medications and instructions through Spanish interpreters. At the time of writing of this report, it has been two weeks since the camp. Many of these patients have returned for follow-up examinations and treatment plans are being arranged through live phone communication with local doctors. Many of the patients are seeing better

Alhumdolillah. Many of the Guatemalan residents were instructed on new surgical techniques.

Maleeha Ahmad was the photographer for the trip:

(www.hfguatemala.tumblr.com)

and Mustefa Ahad professionally filmed this year's camp, which is currently in production for MTA and Humanity First.

On the final day, inventory was taken, all supplies were re boxed and packed and delivered to the mosque storage facility in Mixco, Guatemala. Several medications were left in the clinic for the residents to give to post-op patients. A patient registry and log was created and provided to the Guatemalan residents for follow-up. The host physicians and staff of the clinic prepared a banquet style farewell lunch for the entire team.

On Friday, the team departed Antigua and participated in Friday Prayers at Baitul Awwal near Guatemala City. On Wednesday, Dr. Rudy Gutierrez, a prominent and well-known ophthalmologist in Guatemala, hosted the Gift of Sight team for an educational symposium in Guatemala City. Over 40 people, including several ophthalmologists, attended the event. Dr. Charles Bouchard delivered an ophthalmology lecture to the residents. The society recognized Humanity First for their volunteer efforts. *Alhumdolillah* all team members returned to the U.S. safely and in good health. All in all the Gift of Sight camp was a blessed success, *Alhumdolillah*. We look forward to the 5th Gift of Sight mission to Guatemala in 2014, *Insha Allah*. The Gift of Sight team is grateful to the administration of Humanity First, under the direction of Munum Naeem, for their support and oversight.

GUATEMALA CLINIC IN WEST PALM BEACH

Tariq Mahmood, General Secretary

On Saturday April 5th the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community were offering free medical service to the less fortunate at the Guatemala consulate in West Palm Beach. The team consisted of Dr. Bashir Shaikh, Brother Mudathir Adedeji, and Aleem Uddin.

Arriving at the consulate wasn't easy as it was unclear where we would park our cars and set up our table. Dr. Bashir Shaikh arrived first and was told to set up a table at a narrow hallway however he realized that the visiting patient would need some privacy and he decided to segregate our table to a more secluded area where patients would feel more comfortable. Next I arrived at the consulate which was located inside an elementary school. When I arrived I was astounded at how many people there were at the consulate. When I arrived Dr. Bashir came out and took me to the medicine which we brought inside the consulate. Momentarily after Brother Mudathir arrived, we were able to start checking patients. We set up our table in a way that was very organized and effective. At the beginning of the table we had patients filling their personal information and then waiting to be called.

Around 10am patients started to arrive and the first patient was a male in his late 20's who was very loquacious and was very pleased with the services we gave. Dr. Bashir and Brother Mudathir were talking to the patients entirely in Spanish so there was not a language barrier between the patients and the providers. Patients were continually arriving and we had a big line of patients waiting for their turn to be called. All kinds of patients came and took advantage of the free health care from young children to old seniors from mothers to fathers. There was one particular family that came and visited our table that did a lot of community service in Miami as well as in hospitals in Guatemala and they lauded our desire to help the less fortunate. They asked about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, and we told them about the different schemes from blood drives to our Humanity First initiatives. They were very impressed and asked to work with us in Guatemala. As the day came to an end we had attended more than 30 patients in a span of five hours without a lunch break. Every single patient that we saw was very pleased with our services and had only good things to say and was very appreciative.

THE EXPRESSION “QUL” USED IN THE HOLY QUR’AN

Naeem Ahmad, Westbury, NY

The expression “*Qul*” appears more than 300 times in the Holy Qur’an in this form and hundreds of times more in other derivative forms. At the simplest level, it means ‘say’ but the range and breadth of meanings associated and conveyed by it in the Arabic language is truly amazing.

Lexicons define the meanings as to say, to speak, to publish and proclaim, to inspire, to point out, to relate, to think, to answer or reply, to give an opinion, to state a circumstance, to indicate a condition, to transmit an affair, to convey without uttering a word, and not the least, to profess a doctrine or a concept or a faith, etc. *Qul* sometimes is used as a question. Here is an example from two verses: Ask, ‘To whom belongs what is in the heavens and the earth?’ (6:13). Say, ‘What think ye?’ (6:47)

While conducting a *Ta’limul-Qur’an* class with 10 to 15 year olds at the Baitul-Huda mosque in Long Island, NY, the students let their imaginations roam and derived many other points related to the expression *Qul*: I encouraged the students to continue to ponder over the meaning. The young boys and girls came forward with further ideas that I have paraphrased below. The effort was entirely theirs.

- Before you say something you must understand it. So, *Qul* implies to understand the underlying concept and then say it or convey it.
- More than understanding the concept, you must believe in it before you were to convey it to others.
- The understanding and believing in it must lead you to practice the concept before you convey it to others.
- Make sure that understanding, believing and practicing the concept brings a change for the better in you: both in your thinking and your actions and that this change may speak louder than what you may convey by word of mouth.

The significance of *Qul* is even greater than all these meanings may indicate. Indeed *Qul* may arguably be one of the salient points of divergence between the Jewish and Islamic faiths. The Jewish profession of faith encapsulates the monotheistic essence of Judaism in the words “Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one” found in Deuteronomy whereas the Islamic statement about the Oneness of God may be translated as: Say, there is none of worship except Allah. “Hear O Israel” confines the teachings of Torah to those who are ethnically Jewish. That may be the reason that Judaism is not a proselytizing its faith. On the other hand, “*Qul*”, with all its connotations, makes it obligatory on its followers to engage in propagation (*Tabligh*) to convey the message to one and all.

“The Divine command expressed by قل (say) applies, besides the Holy Prophet^{saw}, to every Muslim. Besides *Sūrah Ikhlas*, this word is placed at the beginning of Chapters 72, 112, 113 and 114, and used in about 306 verses of the Qur’ān, and wherever it is used it emphasizes the importance of the subject governed by it. Thus believers are enjoined to proclaim loudly and repeatedly, and to convey to disbelievers in clear and definite terms, the great principles of Islam enunciated and emphasized in the [related chapters].”

Similar discussions can be part of family dinners. They can take place during journeys when traveling together. While such discussions will help increase knowledge of the Holy Qur’an and strengthen faith, they will also enhance relationships and bonds of Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

TRIP TO ESPANA (SPAIN): SIGHTSEEING, HISTORY AND A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Khola Humayun, (Atlanta, Georgia)

This past winter, I was fortunate to go on a vacation to Spain. My husband and I chose Spain over other countries because Hazoor^{aba} has mentioned that through the Ahmadi *Jama'at*, Muslims would one day once again triumph in Spain. We were also interested in Spain because when Hazoor^{aba} visited the west coast of America recently, he said that we should preach more to Spanish speaking people; since my two older children speak Spanish, we thought this would be a good experience for them to have.

While planning it, I was excited about the sightseeing and history that I would experience throughout the trip. The first night when we arrived in Madrid, we went to my cousin's house for a dinner. She is married to Fazal Elahi Qamar Sahib, who is the son of the first Ahmadi missionary to Spain, Maulana Karam Elahi Zafar Sahib. At their house, we were told various inspirational incidents about his father, and were shown the original box in which he used to sell his perfumes. He also narrated many awe inspiring instances from our *Khulafa's* trips to Spain. From that point on, the trip transcended mere sightseeing and history; it became a spiritual journey as well.

The following day, we traveled to the historic city of Toledo, which is an hour and a half south of Madrid. Fazl Elahi Qamar Sahib had told us the night before that there is a former mosque in Toledo that was visited by

Khulafa-e-Waqt who went to Spain. It is called El Cristo de la Luz (Christ of Light), because it was converted into a church during the Reconquista. While our tour guide was taking us there, I was reading *durood sharif*, and thinking about how in the days before the Reconquista, people walking through these very alleys would be saying *Salam* to each other. Upon arriving, we read two *nafl* there. And then I thought that despite my vision of pre-Reconquista Spain in which everyone greeted each other with *Assalamo Alaikum*, now this vision is gone because there is probably not a single Muslim inhabiting this town. However, at that moment, a man passing by while walking his dog, seemingly a native of the town, said *Salam* to me. For a moment, I doubted if I heard him correctly, and even asked my daughter whether he really did say *Salam*. But such are the ways of *Allah Ta'ala*, that he shows us hope even when we are doubtful.

The next day, we went to the Alhambra, a breathtakingly beautiful Moorish (Spanish Muslim) palace. While walking there, my heart felt pain in that Muslims were here no longer who had the power they used to have. Then, we went to Cordoba, where we took a tour of the

1000 year old Gran Mezquita (Grand Mosque). I do not have words to describe how I felt upon entering this magnificent, mostly preserved former mosque (it is now a Church). We asked whether we were allowed to pray and were told that prostrating was not allowed. So, I went and sat on a bench in the Mezquita where I then read two *nafl*.

After visiting the Gran Mezquita, we took a taxi from Cordoba to *Masjid* Basharat in Pedro Abad which is 26 kilometers away. *Masjid* Basharat was inaugurated by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV^{aba} in 1982, and it is the first mosque built in Spain since the Reconquista in 1492. Mohtaram Abdul Razzaq, *Ameer* of Spain, graciously gave us a tour of *Masjid* Basharat. These are just a few highlights of this amazing journey which also took us to the old Muslim city of Seville, and the Moorish castles in Portugal. These sights make one appreciate the profound influence of Spanish Muslims on the advancement of modern European scientific knowledge and discoveries.

I thank Allah Almighty that He made it possible for us to take this trip to Spain. I would also like to thank my sister-in-law Mansura Minhas, who recommended that I write this article, and my daughter who helped me put my sentiments about this trip into words.

CHINO IMAM MEETS WITH TWO INLAND EMPIREE MAYORS

Jonathan M. A. Ghaffar

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's Baitul Hameed Mosque on Ramona Ave. in Chino is celebrating its 25th anniversary in July, and its Imam, Shamshad A. Nasir, is on a mission -- a public relations mission that's been on-going since the mosque was built and which he has continued since being stationed at the Chino Mosque as the worldwide Ahmadiyya Community's southwest regional missionary in the US.

Imam Shamshad's mission is to inform the citizens of Southern California in general -- and its religious and civic leaders in particular -- about the true teachings of Islam and the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. A large part of that mission involves making contact with the mayors, police chiefs and other elected public officials in his outreach area. In March the *Imam* visited the mayors of Colton and Upland to formally introduce himself and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to these Inland Empire city leaders.

On March 17th, Imam Shamshad traveled to the city of Colton to meet with Mayor Sarah Zamoro and some of her staff. The Imam was accompanied by Baitul Hameed Mosque members Asim Ansari, Imran Jattala, Rahman Abdul Aleem and Jonathan M. A. Ghaffar. Imam Shamshad gave the Mayor a brief overview of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, detailing its founding in Northern India in 1889 by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, who proclaimed that God had appointed him the Promised Messiah

awaited by the followers of most of the world's religions (including Christianity and Islam), as well as the *Imam Mahdi* (the guided spiritual leader) expected by the Muslims.

Imam Shamshad presented Mayor Zamoro with a copy of the book "World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace" by Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the fifth *Khalifa* of the Ahmadiyya Community or spiritual successor of the founder. The *Khalifa's* book is a collection of speeches he has delivered around the world before legislative and policy-making bodies, including members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on Capitol Hill, the British House of Commons, the European Parliament in Brussels, the Military Headquarters at Koblenz in Germany, and a Peace Symposium in London.

The book also contains letters written by the *Khalifa* to the leaders of America, Canada, Israel, Iran, France, Russia, Saudi Arabia, China, Germany and the United Kingdom. The letters urged striving for peace and not war so that the devastating effects of a Third World War can be averted.

Imam Shamshad inquired about Interfaith activities in Colton and expressed a desire to be involved in them, along with any community service projects such as blood drives and food or

clothes distributions. The Chino Mosque has been the site of regular blood drives since 2011 as part of the nationwide "Muslims for Life" blood donation campaign to honor the victims of 9-11 by saving lives all across America. The mosque also conducts twice-weekly outreach programs to help feed the homeless in Pomona.

The Imam's next visit on his "IE mayors" tour took place on March 21st when he stopped in to see Upland's Mayor Ray Musser. The Mayor has met the Imam informally at Upland City Council meetings, the last being on March 10th where Imam Shamshad delivered the opening prayer invocation calling for peace to start with ourselves and extending out into the world. The two also met at SB County Supervisor Gary Ovitt's annual Pastor Appreciation Breakfast in Chino Hills on March 20th, but this was the first time the Imam has paid an official friendship visit to the Upland Mayor. Accompanying the Imam were fellow Ahmadis Imran Jattala, Rahman Abdul Aleem, Jonathan M.A. Ghaffar and Fateh Qureshi.

Imam Shamshad gave the Mayor some background information on the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, presenting him with some literature and a copy of the landmark book by the Community's founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908), entitled "The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam." It was written in 1896 and delivered as a lecture at a World Religions Conference in Lahore, India. The book was predicted by its author

to be the winning entry at the Conference, and by unanimous verdict of those in attendance, it was indeed judged to be the best speech from dozens of entries.

Mayor Musser thanked the Imam and his members for coming, for the book and for the other Islamic information materials. When prompted for some background information about himself, the Mayor spoke at length in a relaxed, folksy manner about his childhood and religious education growing up in the Mennonite Church in Pennsylvania. He later became a member of the Brethren in Christ Church. He has worked in the insurance field for many decades, and now as Mayor of Upland, he looks forward to bringing positive change and economic growth to the city. He is also committed to creating more housing and other resources to help the homeless and lower-income residents. In the 45-minute meeting, it was clear the Mayor genuinely loved his city and wanted the best for his constituents.

FASTING

Hadhrat Ribab states that her uncle Salman bin 'Amir^{ra} related that the Holy Prophet^{saw} said: "When you break the fast, do it with a date, for there is blessing in it, and if you cannot find a date, with water for it is pure. He added: Charity towards a poor one is charity, and towards a relation is both charity and benevolence."

(Tirmidhi kitabuzzakat)

MUHAMMAD^{saw} - MESSENGER OF PEACE EVENT

Asad Chaudhary, Lehigh Valley Jama'at

We held our second annual *Muhammad^{saw} - Messenger of Peace* event on April 23, 2014. The event was held at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. A little over 100 people attended the event with about 70 guests. Fifteen children also attended the event - a separate room was reserved for them.

The evening began with dinner followed by the formal program. After recitation from the Holy Qur'an, a brief video - Introduction to Ahmadiyyat was shown. Respected Missionary Azhar Haneef Sahib delivered the keynote address. He captivated the audience with his hour long presentation, shedding light on the life and character of the founder of Islam. Professor Kenneth Cragg followed with a few remarks highlighting the need for greater understanding about Islam and fellow Muslims. He stated, "It is not enough for us to hear it [the message of Islam] and affirm it. It is now time for us to speak of it. To bear witness to our neighbors and our friends of it. It is up to us as Christians to make the truth known. That's what it means to be part of this nation." He went on to say that, "I have studied [Islam] for myself for seven years and I can affirm that what you heard tonight is the truth. I challenge you to be true to the faith you hold."

The event concluded with a lively Q&A session in which the guests had an opportunity to get clarification on the Life of Muhammad^{saw} and on Islam in general.

After the event, guests were presented with a copy of Hazoor's^{aba} book *World Crisis and Pathway to Peace* along with *True Love for the Holy Prophetsaw* - Friday Sermon delivered by Hazoor (aba) on September 21, 2012.

In talking with the guests after the event they all had positive comments and were appreciative of such a gathering. They all left with a better understanding about Prophet Muhammad^{saw} and Islam.

Some comments from the guests who attended:

"A total change in my attitude."

"Information I thought I previously had no access to...this was extremely powerful and enlightening. Very well done!"

"Reinforced my feeling that Muslims have been terribly maligned."

"Helpful about explanation about treatment of women."

"I am a Muslim and I found out new things about my Prophet."

"Fantastic speaker - very powerful in person - thank you!"

This is a private service which is approved by the Department of Taleem-ul-Qur'an

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Online Qur'an Academy

www.alquranmilwaukee.com

Features

- One-to-One Lecture.
- Lecture timings as per your choice.
- Class Time 30 min.

Courses

- Basic Qur'an Reading Lessons for beginners.
- Qur'an Reading with Tajweed.
- Qur'an Memorization (Hifz) classes.
- Qur'an Translation classes.
- Urdu learning classes.

3 Days Free Trial

Qudratullah Ayaz

Director of Al Qur'an Online Academy.

Milwaukee Ph # (414)-546-4992.

E-mail Address: aqudratullah@hotmail.com

Skype Id: qudrat.ayaz



Above: "Muhammad^{SAW} Messenger of Peace Event Organized by Sacramento, California Chapter
 Below: "Muhammad^{SAW} Messenger of Peace Event Organized by Merced, California Chapter



May Day Celebrations held at Baitul Ahad, The Republic of Marshall Islands





Above-Left: Prsedident of the Indiana Chapter of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community presenting a copy of the Holy Qura'n to Mayor of Indianapolis, Honorable Greg Ballard.



Above-Right: Participants of "Muhammad^{saw}-Messenger of Peace" Conference, Organized by Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Dayton, Ohio.

Below: Proceedings of the 1st Annual "Quran and Science Symposium" organized by Asociation of Ahmadi Muslim Scientists, USA.



MAHMOOD AHMAD BENGALI SHAHID: A VERY HUMBLE AND BRAVE SERVANT OF AHMADIYYAT

Inamul Haq Kauser, Missionary Midwest Region



Last week we heard about the very sad demise of our dear beloved brother Mahmood Ahmad Bengali Shahid in Sydney Australia.

I met him in 1966 at Jamia Ahmadiyya School, where we became very close friends. He was elected as “Qa'id Khuddam” for Jami'a Hostel for several years due to his kind personality. He was very popular among the students. During this time, I was his appointed “Mo'tamad.” Our Zi'amat always stood first in Rabwah. Due to his hard work and honest nature he was elected as a Member of Mess Committee and then as Sadr. In Jami'a he was elected as member of Jameeat and then Naib Raees Jameeat Tulaba. In 1983-84 I worked with him as “Muhtamim Tarbiyyat.” The attendance in those years is recorded to be 800-900 at the Annual Tarbiyyati Class. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IVth attended the closing of the Tarbiyyati Class and delivered the closing speech which was probably his last speech in Rabwah. Hazoor-e-Anwar appreciated the

high quality and the high number of attendees and the high quality of the class. Mahmood Bengali Sahib worked as *Muhtamim Muqami* for several years. In 1979 at the election of Sadr *Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* he received only enough votes to make him 5th place for Sadr. Therefore, he never expected to be appointed as Sadr *Khuddam*. After the election he and I were standing in the back of the Marquee completely relaxed as he never expected to be appointed as Sadr being in 5th place. Suddenly we heard the announcement was made by Hazoor's Representative that *Hazoor-e-Anwar* had appointed Mahmood Ahmad Shahid Sahib to be Sadr *Khuddam* for the next two years. He was stunned. I was next to him, and I immediately moved forward to embrace him but he said, “Stay away” “Stay away” and then asked to confirm what he had just heard. Was his name mentioned for Sadr *Khuddam*? I then confirmed it. He kept quiet, humbled and worried for a couple of minutes, and then he finally relaxed and embraced me. So after that many *Khuddam* arrived and started congratulating him.

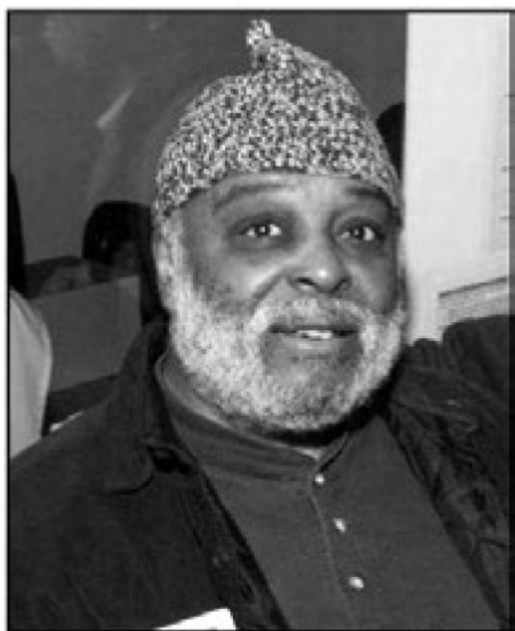
Afterward it became evident that *Hazoor-e-Anwar*'s decision was very blessed for the *Jama'at*. Indeed Mahmood Ahmad Sahib worked very hard and

with great courage in many emergency situations facing many challenges head on and remained calm throughout all the years in service. He had an extraordinary kind of love for *Khilafat* and Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih. Once he received any directions or commands from Hazoor, he never hesitated and put all his efforts to succeed his Hazoor's wishes. He was dedicated to *Khilafat* and the *Nizam-e-Jama'at*. He had an amazing devotion and admiration for the family members of the Promised Messiah^{as} and always showed his respect and honor for them. He was a very jolly person. People always enjoyed his *Bengali style Urdu* which was full of love and brotherhood. He never felt estranged due to his Bengali background he always felt he was one of us and we embraced him in the same manner. He attended the Annual *Ijtima* of *Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* in New York as International Sadr *Khuddamul Ahmadiyya* in 1987. He had several meetings with the *Qaideen Khuddam* and also visited a few cities in US. These trips were conducted in the years Respected Syed Sajid Ahmad Sahib was our *National Qaid* for USA. He left us with many good memories from his dedicated life. He was so devoted to Ahmadiyyat that *Hazoor-e-Anwar* delivered an entire Friday Sermon about Mahmood Ahmad Bengali Sahib's qualities, dedication, devotion and great services to Ahmadiyyat. May Allah grant him a higher rank in the paradise. Our prayers be with him always and May Allah protect, support and bless his family. *Ameen*

NURUDDIN ABDUL LATIF (1937–2014)

Khurram Khan

Contributors: Zaki Dard, Irfan Azam, Anisa Bushra Salam Bajwa



Nuruddin Abdul Latif
(July 1937 – April 13, 2014)

Uncle Nuruddin Abdul Latif was born in New York in 1937. He had accepted Islam and Ahmadiyyat in 1965 under the auspices of Hadrat Mushleh Mau'ood^{ra} at the Leroy Place Mosque in Washington, D.C. He used to mention how reading 'The Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam' attracted him towards the message of the Promised Messiah^{as}. Born Norman Galloway, he became known as Nuruddin Ghazali due to his extraordinary ability to reason based on his vast knowledge of the Bible, history, psychology and other subjects. He changed his name to Nuruddin Abdul Latif upon the advice of Hadrat Mirza Nāsir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih IIIth.

He worked as a computer professional and after spending decades in the New York area, he moved to the Research Triangle, NC Jama'at in

1996, retiring from his job in 2001.

The *Khuddam* of the Research Triangle Jama'at affectionately remember him for his love for knowledge and willingness to spend hours amongst *Khuddam* to answer questions on practically any topic. Personally, I was amazed at how he was able to connect subjects and explain complex ideas in terms that the audience – young or old – could understand. He used to offer his time despite his weak health to training activities of the young and old. In the last children class I was able to attend, I remember he asked several children to recite any Surah of the Holy Qur'an that they wanted and then asked them why they picked the verses. After carefully listening to the explanation of the children and encouraging them to ponder over the message of the Holy Qur'an, he elegantly connected the subject matter of all the *Surahs* that were recited. He had thus beautifully demonstrated to everyone present that all the verses and *Surahs* of the Holy Qur'an are connected and carry a wonderful continuity.

Jama'at members tried to benefit from his knowledge as much as possible. Zaki Dard said about the Quran classes he helps coordinate every Saturday: "The class's inspiration emerged

when I started asking Uncle Nuruddin questions after *Jama'at* meetings about how to rebut Christianity's Trinitarian beliefs. His eloquent arguments and comprehensive but succinct responses immediately captured my attention. His ability to combine fields of study and connect topics back to the Quran inspired me to start the Quran classes with him. He always mentioned and emphasized, first and foremost, the learning and understanding of the Holy Qur'an and the vast corpus of study of the Promised Messiah. The weekly Qur'an discussion classes were started to help remedy those gaps in knowledge for anyone in the *Jama'at* willing to participate. What attracted me primarily to Uncle Nuruddin was his vast interweaving knowledge on any topic I asked him, whether it was related to the Qur'an, the Bible or the history of Islam and other religions. He mandated that the discussion be informal and be completely free flowing. The source and the center piece of the discussion would be the Qur'an. We started with *Surah Luqman* and the attributes of God. Uncle Nuruddin heavily emphasized the attributes of God such as those mentioned in *Surah Fatihah* because it allowed us to clarify and understand how we approached the concept of Allah versus how other beliefs observe their God (s). Before his passing, we had started going over *Tafsir-e-Kabir* on *Surah Fatihah* in both Urdu and English. Uncle Nuruddin's charm and humility made for a very comfortable atmosphere to think

out loud and ask any questions about the present verses that were being discussed. He also had a knack for giving relevant worldly and abstract examples to fortify the points he made and relate to the audience, old or young.

Uncle Nuruddin inculcated in me the pursuit of spiritual knowledge through the study of the Qur'an and the works of the Promised Messiah. His enduring legacy for me was his passion and love for the study of the Holy Qur'an and for sharing that vast knowledge so willingly with other people."

Irfan Azam often served to pick Uncle Nuruddin from his house and drop him back for Friday service, Children classes, Qur'an classes and other *Jama'at* events. He spent a lot of time with Uncle and earned many blessings through his company. He told me: "The contributions that Uncle Nuruddin made to the Ahmadiyya Community – not only as a pioneering strength in the early years of the American *Jama'at* but also individually to us as its members – are incalculable. He served in roles that include the first National *Secretary Taleem of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya USA*. He inspired us with the empowerment of knowledge about our own religion; strongly encouraging that we should take ownership of our faith by learning everything about it.

Uncle Nuruddin had a strong love of reading. Upon realizing the truth of Ahmadiyyat in the 1960s, he ventured on an incredibly prolific lifelong journey of acquiring knowledge to present irrefutable and scholarly validation of the writings of the Promised Messiah and *Khulafa*. He became a scholar of the Holy Qur'an as well as many religions of the world. In an attempt at what he humorously called the rebuild-

ing of the great Library of Alexandria in his humble apartment space he had collected literally thousands of books that filled the shelves lining the walls of the living space that he and his wife shared – and he had, in fact, read and absorbed just about every one of them. His ability to take any topic that was brought up in the course of spontaneous conversation and elucidate on that topic and its place in the intricately woven web of world history and the "macro-view" of things was nothing short of astounding.

Complimentary to his wealth of knowledge, his meekness of character and humility was in and of itself inspirational. In spite of being a highly knowledgeable elder of the *Jama'at* who may well have had something to say during every divisive dialogue in meetings, he would never interrupt a speaker but would patiently wait with his hand raised, usually with a gentle and recognizably knowing smile.

For adults and children alike, Uncle Nuruddin was a fatherly figure in the way that he would always be happy and eager to share his priceless wealth of knowledge with anyone who showed even a glimmer of inquisitiveness. He loved the innocence of children and would take special care to satisfy any curiosity that they would express. He would expound on complex topics in ways for the questioners to easily grasp and build upon, and thus set sail on their own journeys of personal growth and knowledge-building. His motto

taken from the *Ahadith*, i.e., "seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave," was one that he truly lived by to the very end. Not only did he inspire us to do so as well, but he was living proof right among us that this true Islamic ideal was in fact attainable, and worth every effort to do so."

Rehman Chaudhry remembers how humble Uncle Nuruddin was even in sharing of his immense knowledge. He mentioned, "It was great to see how when I asked Nuruddin Sahib about his perspective on an issue, he was very cautious to point out that it was not about what he thought but what the Quran, the Holy Prophet, the Promised Messiah and the *Khulufa* of the Promised Messiah^{as} actually said on the subject."

The last time I met him at *Jumu'ah* – just a couple of days before his passing away – he mentioned to me how he thoroughly enjoyed reading the first two volumes of the book '*Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya*'. He was anxiously waiting for the next volumes of the English translation of the book to be published so he could directly benefit from this extraordinary work of the Promised Messiah^{as}. He advised me to encourage every *Jama'at* member to not only have this book in their houses but to benefit from the arguments contained therein. I want to take this opportunity to request the *Jama'at* members to benefit from the books of the Promised Messiah^{as} that have already been translated and also to pray for the successful translations of more books in English and other languages.

He held great love for *Khilafat* and described his meeting with Hadrath Khalifatul Massih V^{aba} in 2012 as one of the most important moments in his life..

Majlis Ansarullāh, USA awarded him a Lifetime Service Award in 2003 for his service as an excellent teacher and mentor. He also received the Mufti Muhammad Şadiq^{ra} Lifetime Commitment Award in 2009 from Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya. When he was asked to convey a message to Khuddam after receiving the award, he reminded Khuddam that the real victory of Islam is developing *Taqwa* in us. He said that in order to gain that victory, we must read the works of the Promised Messiah^{as} and listen to the words of the *Khulafa*.

Uncle Nuruddin lived a fulfilling life and truly modeled the *qana'at* and simplicity expected of a true believer. He was a *Musi* and left this transitory abode on Sunday April 13th. His last rituals including *Janaza* were performed in North Carolina and then he was taken to Maryland for *Janaza* (funeral prayer) at Masjid Baitur Rahman and burial services in the *Jama'at* graveyard. May Almighty Allah grant Uncle Nuruddin Abdul Latif the highest echelons of Paradise (*Jannatul Firdaus*) and may He bless our *Jama'at* with millions of spiritual soldiers like him, *Ameen*.

Uncle Nuruddin Abdul Latif is survived by his wife of 40 years, Rabiah Latif. May Almighty Allah grant her fortitude and strength to bear this great loss, Amin.

[I thank the members of the *Jama'at* that contributed to this article. Some of the background information about Uncle Nuruddin is based on research shared by Mrs. Anisa Bushra Salam Bajwa (currently of Orlando *Jama'at* and formerly of Research Triangle *Jama'at* whose family had very close relationship with Uncle Nuruddin and his wife Rabiah) for which I express my heartfelt gratitude]

A SOLEMN SOMBE ACCEPTANCE

Mahir Osman, Detroit, MI

This poem is dedicated to Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Shaheed, the first Ahmadi martyr on USA soil murdered in Detroit Michigan on Monday, August 8th, 1983 (May Allah Bless the souls of the martyrs and lead the oppressors to the path of righteousness. Ameen.)

This solemn dedication, fulfilled a time ago
A self-sworn declaration, to protect and uphold
Enemies aggravation, a terror was to behold
A martyr's affirmation, a story lived not told

Light descends from the horizon - the air breathes bleak of black
Silent paths that are trodden, bears prints of Satan's wrath
Forwarding steps of motion, promise of decay lasts
Diabolic deed chosen, demons whispers a path

In the adjacent to the night, the innocent prevail
Away and afar from sight, beginning of a tale
Unaware of future fight, awaiting to set sail
Unknown of the future plight, the unequipped holy grail

Serenity with smiles, love comfort and blessings
A righteous man beguiles, his sire progressing
Cloth spread across the tile, the Lords love professing
Oh their prayer so fertile, tenderness confessing

Beam of judgment from heaven, follow void emotion
Their abundance of venom, poisoning erosion
Faster cometh the momentum, closer their hearts frozen
Still breaths and heartbeat silent, wait the door to open

A chime disrupts the righteous - guests are king in this home
Yet no king is this virus, it plunders where it roams
Assassinate the pious, and vengeance will be shown
The moment is upon us, a peace, Salaam, Shalom

An avoidable destruction, indestructible corruption, incorruptible deduction,
infallible instruction
Self-proclaiming immortals, opening hells own portals, no remorse or morals,
lost in the depth of corals
A conscious decision, responsive collision, monstrous incision, a satanic mission

Trembling and horrified, unable to describe, stunned and terrified, no time to survive
A moments stain, a blood lust hurricane, crippling pain, a holocaust membrane
No one's forsaken, when a life is taken, rose petals are shaken, the Lord's wrath awaken

This metal mechanism, amber red with an ignite
Smoldering heat instrument, staring chasm of fright
A resolve is weakening, death approaches this night
A solemn somber acceptance, a soul's last taste of life

Press Release

MUSLIMS CELEBRATE MAY DAY AT THE ULIGA MOSQUE, MARSHALL ISLANDS

Falahud Din Shams, National President Marshall Islands

The members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community organized a special event in accordance with the May Day Celebrations which were being held across Marshall Islands. Dozens of men, women and children participated in the set up which included balloons, decorations around the Mosque, tents, chairs, and food preparations.

Along with the preparation and programs, the true success of the event was displayed by the great flag hoisting ceremony as well as the amazing turnout of guests. More than 120 people joined the ceremony at the Mosque by singing along with the National Anthem, enjoying the delicious BBQ and refreshments.

The program began with the flag hoisting ceremony, then followed by a recitation of a short portion of the Quran, then the National Anthem, then an amazing speech by a young lad, and finally included games. Many guests and members just sat around the whole day enjoying the games and social mixing. For many residents of Uliga it was not possible to make it to Delap due to financial constraint, so they were very appreciative to have such an amazing celebration right at home.

For the National Anthem, young Ahmadi Muslim girls dressed with Marshall Island shirts and blue scarves stood in front of the great crowd and in the most beautiful tone and style they began the National Anthem with courage and pride.

This scene warranted all the on-lookers to join in with a unanimous voice of the National Anthem sung on the streets of Uliga in the front yard of the Mosque. After this a young boy named, Tiger Talley, who is a middle school student stood to speak about 'Love of one's Nation is part of Faith'. Tiger Talley said during his speech:

"The reason we are celebrating today is to show our love and loyalty to this beautiful country we call home. In order to complete our faith and religion, we, Muslims are required to not only love our country but also be loyal and law abiding citizens."

"In the Holy Quran (Muslim's Holy Book), God the Almighty states that 'O ye who believe, obey God and obey the Prophet and obey those in authority from among you.'

(Chapter 4: Verse 60) .

This verse admonishes the Muslims that in order to be a successful as a nation, we should, not only follow the religious commandments, but also obey the authorities. It's a religious duty of every Muslim to obey all those who are in authority and to be law abiding citizens of the country of residence." Imam Joyia said in his closing remarks.

About Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a dynamic, reformist and fast-growing international movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, the Community spans more than 200 countries with membership exceeding tens of millions. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, established in 1920, is among the oldest American-Muslim organizations. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the only Islamic organization to believe that the long-awaited messiah has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{ra} (1835-1908) of Qadian, India. Ahmad claimed to be the metaphorical second coming of Jesus of Nazareth and the divine guide, whose advent was foretold by the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad^{sa}. The Community believes that God sent Ahmad, like Jesus, to end religious wars, condemn bloodshed and reinstitute morality, justice and peace. Ahmad's advent has brought about an unprecedented era of Islamic revival and moderation. He divested Muslims of fanatical beliefs and practices by vigorously championing Islam's true and essential teachings.

4 Nasir Ahmad Rd., Sharon, MA
02067 Phone: 508-443-1889
www.MuslimsForLife.org

English Books Available From amibookstore.us

Holy Qur'ān medium size paperback: \$4.00
 Holy Qur'ān translation by Ch. Zafrulla Khan: \$10.00
 Holy Qur'ān small with English translation: \$8.00
 Dictionary of Holy Qur'ān: \$15.00
 Commentary on the Holy Qur'ān Surah Fatiha: \$10.00
 Talim-ul-Qur'ān: \$5.00
 A Gift for Al Nadwah: \$2.00
 A Gift for the Queen: \$3.00
 A Misconception Removed: \$1.00
 Blessings of Prayer: \$3.00
 British Government and Jihad: \$2.00
 Divine Manifestations: \$2.00
 Elucidation of Objectives: \$3.00
 Fountain of Christianity: \$3.00
 Four Questions by Mr. Sirajuddin, A Christian, Answered: \$3.00
 Jesus in India: \$5.00
 Lecture Lahore: \$3.00
 Lecture Ludhiana: \$3.00
 Lecture Sialkot: \$3.00
 Our Teaching: \$2.00
 The Criterion for Religions: \$2.00
 The Green Announcement: \$2.00
 The Heavenly Decree: \$3.00
 The Heavenly Sign: \$3.00
 The Need for an Imam: \$3.00
 The truth Revealed: \$2.00
 The Will: \$1.00
 Three Questions by a Christian and their Answers: \$3.00
 Victory of Islam: \$2.00
 Essence of Islam Volume 1: \$10.00
 Essence of Islam Volume 2: \$10.00
 Essence of Islam Volume 3: \$10.00
 Essence of Islam Volume 4: \$10.00
 Essence of Islam Volume 5: \$10.00
 Majestic Writings of the Promised Messiah: \$1.00
 Claims of the Promised Messiah: \$1.00
 Life of Ahmad: \$10.00
 Hadhrat Maulawi Nur-ud-din: \$7.00
 Ahmadiyyat or the true Islam: \$5.00
 Invitation to Ahmadiyyat: \$6.00
 Muhammad (pbuh) in the Bible: \$1.00
 Nizam e Nau (English): \$5.00
 Remembrance of Allah: \$3.00
 Truth about the split: \$7.00
 Way of the Seekers: \$3.00
 Points to Ponder: \$2.00
 A deplorable scheme of falsification and accusations: \$1.00
 A Great Victory for Ahmadiyyat: \$1.00

Ahmadiya Muslims Jama'at and the Muslims of India: \$1.00
 Ahmadiyyah Muslim Jama'at and independence of Kashmir and Palestine: \$1.00
 Ahmadiyyah Muslim Jama'at and the Palestinian Muslims: \$1.00
 An Admonitory Sign: \$1.00
 An Elementary Study of Islam: \$1.00
 Christianity a journey from facts to fiction: \$7.00
 Extreme Lies and Verdicts of disbelief: \$1.00
 Homeopathy: \$12.00
 Islam's response to contemporary issues: \$7.00
 Some distinctive features of Islam: \$1.00
 The founder of the Ahmadiyyah Muslim Jama'at: \$1.00
 The Gulf Crisis - The New World Order: \$10.00
 The national security of Indian Muslims: \$1.00
 The supreme plan for the universal regeneration of Islam: \$1.00
 The True Islamic Concept of Jihad: \$1.00
 The truth about the alleged punishment of apostasy in Islam: \$5.00
 Their Ulema: \$1.00
 Was Ahmadiyya Jama'at planted by British?: \$1.00
 With love to Muslims of world: \$1.00
 Conditions of Bai'at and responsibilities of an Ahmadi: \$5.00
 Gateway to the second centenary of Khilafat e Ahmadiyya: \$3.00
 The blessed Model of the Holy Prophet and caricatures: \$4.00
 The Message from Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba): \$0
 World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace: \$3.00
 The Guiding Light: \$4.00
 Forty Gems of Beauty: \$2.00
 The Life & Character of the Seal of Prophets Vol I: \$12.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Angels of God: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Change, A Muslim perspective: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Charity: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Creationism: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Economic Chaos, Islamic Solutions: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, God's Prophets: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, In Defense of Islam: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Khilafat 1908-2008: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Messiah: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Pakistan's Black Friday: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Sin: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Special Edition for New Members: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, The Message: \$1.00
 Muslim Sunrise, Zion, Illinois: \$1.00
 An Interpretation of Islam (Vaglieri): \$3.00

The Way of the Righteous (Hardcover): \$8.00
 Islamic Teaching of an Ideal Family Life: \$2.00
 Nabuwwat and Khilafat: \$3.00
 The path to peace: \$1.00
 Jihad and world peace: \$1.00
 Radicalization of Muslims: \$5.00
 The Exalted Status of the Holy Prophet Muhammad: \$2.00
 Refutation of the allegation of insult to Jesus Christ: \$3.00
 Ahmadiyya Mosques around the world: \$15.00
 Khilafat Centenary Souvenir 1908-2008: \$3.00
 American Ahmadiyya Centennial Souvenir 1889-1989: \$3.00
 The Babi and Bahai Religion: \$3.00
 Synopsis of religious preaching: \$2.00
 Approaching the West: \$2.00
 A pocket book of biblical references: \$1.00
 Rushdie Haunted by his unholy ghost: \$5.00
 Manji another pawn advanced: \$5.00
 Homeopathy, selected Family cures: \$2.00
 Quick Guide to Homeopathic Remedies: \$2.00
 Words of Wisdom: \$2.00
 Inspiring events in the field of Tabligh: \$2.00
 An open invitation to Mubahila: \$0.50
 Maulawi Manzoor Chinioti, A Persistent Liar: \$-
 Missionary: \$2.00
 Interpretation of dreams: \$4.00
 Welcome to Ahmadiyyat: \$10.00
 Persecution 2001: \$2.00
 Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan during 2005: \$2.00
 Persecution 2002: \$2.00
 Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan during 2007: \$2.00
 Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan during 2008: \$2.00
 Persecution of Ahmadis in Pakistan during 2009: \$2.00
 Pakistan 50th Anniversary Ahmadiyya Jama'at services: \$3.00
 Plight of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan 1989 to 1999: \$2.00
 The Situation of Ahmadis after the dawn of democracy in Pakistan: \$1.00
 Enforced Apostacy: Zaheeruddin vs State: \$4.00
 Report on Chak Sikandar: \$-
 Religious intolerance in Pakistan: \$2.00
 Munir Inquiry Report: \$10.00
 Mahzarnama: \$5.00
 The Afghan Martyrs: \$5.00
 Hadrat Malik Saifur Rahman: \$13.00
 Why Islam is my choice: \$2.00
 System of Mushawarat in Jama'at e Ahmadiyya: \$12.00
 Essential Guidelines for Shura: \$6.00
 Tehreek e Waqf e Nau and our obligations: \$1.00
 Love for all hatred for none (sticker): \$1.00

English Books for Children

Ahmad and Sarah: \$3.00
 Ahmad the Guided One: \$10.00
 Allah Al Khaliq: The World of Animals: \$5.00
 Animals in the Holy Qur'ān (5 Posters): \$10.00
 Basics of Religious Education: \$15.00
 Five Pillars of Islam (5 Posters): \$10.00
 Hadhrat Amma Jan, An Inspiration for us all: \$9.00
 Hadhrat Khadija: \$3.00
 Hadhrat Umar Farooq: \$3.00
 Hazrat Ahmad: \$1.00
 Holy Qur'ān Allah's Words: \$1.00
 Lessons on Islam Book III: \$2.00
 Lessons on Islam Book IV: \$3.00
 Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian: \$10.00
 Moses and the Twelve Springs: \$4.00
 Mother of the faithful: \$2.00
 My book about God: \$2.00
 My book of Islamic Rhymes: \$3.00
 My first book on animals: \$3.00
 Our World: \$4.00
 Razzaq and Farida: \$2.00
 Salat (5 Posters): \$10.00
 Salat (Book): \$4.00
 Seerat Hadhrat Amman Jan: \$4.00
 The Mosque (Teacher's resource): \$4.00
 The Mosque: \$3.00
 The Words of Wisdom & Purification: \$7.00
 Zakat (5 Posters): \$10.00

For speedy delivery, please order at amiboostore.us.

Please let publications@ahmadiyya.us know if you need a particular book and the publications department will try to get it for you.

Please check amibookstore.us periodically for new books added for your reading pleasure.



Excerpts from the writings of the Promised Messiah^{as}

Holy Qur'an is Matchless

“The Holy Qur'an is not matchless merely on account of the beauty of its composition, but is matchless on account of all its excellences which it claims to comprise and that is the truth, for whatever proceeds from God Almighty is not unique only on account of one quality but on account of every one of its qualities. Those who do not accept the Holy Qur'an as comprehensive of unlimited eternal truths and insights, do not value the Qur'an as it should be valued. A necessary sign for the recognition of the holy and true Word of God is that it should be unique in all its qualities, for we observe that whatever proceeds from God Almighty is unique and matchless even if it is only a grain of barley, and human powers cannot match it. Being matchless means being unlimited, that is to say, a thing can be matchless only when its wonders and qualities are unlimited and have no end. As we have just stated, this characteristic is found in everything created by God Almighty. For instance, if the wonders of a leaf of a tree are investigated for a thousand years, that period would come to an end, but the wonders of the leaf will not come to an end. That which has come into being through unlimited power, must comprise unlimited wonders and qualities. The verse, “Say, ‘If every ocean becomes ink for the words of my Lord, surely, the ocean would be exhausted before the words of my Lord were exhausted, even though We brought the like thereof as further help;’” (18:110) supports this, for the whole of creation is Words of God..... Thus this verse means that the qualities of creation are without limit and endless. Now when every created thing possesses unlimited and endless qualities and comprises numberless wonders then how could the Holy Qur'an, which is the Holy Word of God Almighty, be confined to the few meanings which may be set out in a commentary of forty or fifty or a thousand volumes, or could have been expounded by our lord and master the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] in a limited period? To say so would almost amount to disbelief, if it is deliberately persisted in. It is true that whatever the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] has set forth as the meaning of the Holy Qur'an is true and correct, but it is not true that the Holy Qur'an contains no more than the insights that have been set forth by the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. Such sayings of our opponents indicate that they do not believe in the unlimited greatness and qualities of the Holy Qur'an. Whereas the Holy Quran says, “Say, ‘If every ocean becomes ink for the words of my Lord, surely, the ocean would be exhausted before the words of my Lord were exhausted, even though We brought the like thereof as further help.’” (Al-Quran 18:110)” [Karamat-us-Sadiqin, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 7, pp. 60-62]

Unlimited Treasury of Insights, Eternal Truths and Wisdoms contained in the Holy Qur'an

“The clear miracle of the Holy Qur'an which can manifest itself to every people and by presenting

which we can silence everyone, whether an Indian, Persian, European or American, is the unlimited treasury of insights, eternal truths and wisdoms, which are expounded in every age according to its need and stand as armed soldiers to refute the thinking of every age. If the Holy Qur'an had been limited in its eternal truths and insights, it would not have amounted to a perfect miracle. Beauty of composition is not a matter the miraculous nature of which can be appreciated by every literate and illiterate person. The clear miracle of the Holy Qur'an is the unlimited insights and fine points which it comprises. A person who does not admit this miracle of the Holy Qur'an is altogether deprived of the knowledge of the Qur'an. He who does not believe in this miracle does not estimate the Qur'an as highly as it should be estimated, and does not recognize God as He should be recognized, and does not honor the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] as he should be honored. Bear it in mind that the miracle of unlimited insights and eternal truths which are contained in the Holy Qur'an has accomplished more in every age than has the sword. All the doubts that every age raises according to its circumstances, and all the claims of superior insights that are put forward, are and are such that they are not to be found in the commentaries. For instance, it has been revealed to me that the period that elapsed between the creation of Adam and the advent of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] is mentioned in Surah al-'Asr in the value of its letters and amounts to 4,740 lunar years." [Izala-e-Auham, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 3, pp. 255-262]

Introductory Interview **Alfurqan Faculty**

Samina Noor Sahiba

(Interview transcribed by Fatima Chowdhry)

Samina Noor Sahiba has served as a teacher for Alfurqan classes since the project's early stages. She learned to read and recite the Holy Quran at Junior Model School (later named the Government Girl's Fazl-e-Umar High School) located in Rabwah, Pakistan. She learned the first three chapters of the Holy Qur'an with translation as part of the syllabus at this school during her stay in Rabwah from 1968-1976.

In Rabwah, she was brought up in a religious and well-balanced environment. Here, she learned the true meaning of Quranic education. Her father, Chaudhry Noor Muhammad Sahib Advocate, migrated from Qadian to Lahore in 1947 after the partition of India and Pakistan. He was sent to Qadian to study at a young age, after her grandfather Dr. Nazir Ahmed Sahib converted to Islam Ahmadiyyat during the time of the Hadhrat Musleh Ma'ood^{ra}. Her father was a few years senior to Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Sahib, Khalifatul Masih IVth, and used to go with him and visit Hadhrat Amman Jaan^{ra}. Since a very early age, Ch. Noor Muhammad Sahib would go to the mosque and pray to God. He used to cry and plead while supplicating Allah. When the older men asked why, he responded that he was praying for himself and for his future generations.

Samina Noor Sahiba holds a Master's Degree in physics from Punjab University, Pakistan. She taught at F.G Margallah College Islamabad for seven years before moving to the United States in 1996. Samina Sahiba says that she keeps herself busy working for the Jamaat and her local community. She says she always wanted to improve her recitation of the Holy Qur'an and was instantly interested when someone informed her about Alfurqan. She, herself, has attended translation (and instructor) classes during the past 4-5 years as a student. She teaches classes online at Alfurqan.us and enjoys teaching the children Yas-sar-nal Qur'an and Basic Recitation BRBO3. Samina Noor Sahiba urges parents to encourage their children to learn and recite the Holy Qur'an, so that our future generations are well equipped with religious knowledge and Islamic teachings; and hence they don't feel lost in western culture.

Readers are requested to benefit from the Holy Qur'an classes provided at Alfurqan.us and pray that may Allah reward all its volunteers for their services. Ameen.



Stories of the Prophets

Hadrat Ibraheem^{as}

(part III— last)

Attia Tul Haq, Austin

Hazrat Ibraheem^{as} was blessed with two pious and holy sons. The first, Hazrat Ishmael^{as}, was the great ancestor of the Muslims, the second son, Hazrat Issac^{as}, was the great ancestor of the Jews and Christians. About thirteen years after the blessed birth of Hazrat Ishmael^{as}, Hazrat Sarah^{ra} gave birth to Hazrat Issac^{as}. The news of the miraculous birth of Hazrat Issac^{as} was closely tied to the news of the destruction of Lot's people. In Sura Hud Allah tells us,

“And surely, Our messengers came to Abraham with glad tidings. They said, ‘We bid you peace.’ He answered, ‘Peace be on you,’ and was not long in bringing a roasted calf. But when he saw their hands not reaching thereto, he knew not what they were, and conceived a fear of them. They said, ‘Fear not, for we have been sent to the people of Lot. And his wife was standing by, and she too was frightened, whereupon We gave her glad tidings of the birth of Isaac and, after Isaac, of Jacob.’” (Sura Hud Verses 70-72)

These verses point to the fact that special angelic-like holy men were sent to Hazrat Ibraheem^{as} to convey the birth of Issac^{as} as well as relay the sad news of the death of the people of Lot. Hazrat Sarah^{as} was extremely surprised at this revelation of the birth of a son since she had reached an extremely old age. Also in these verses, one can find a great example of the hospitality that one should show their guests. In the above incidence, Hazrat Ibraheem^{as} was not long in presenting an excellent meal for his visitors.

Hazrat Ibraheem^{as} embodied many great virtues in his character. One of his greatest virtues was that he was extremely worried for the continuing guidance of his people. In Sura Baqara verse 261, Allah relates to us the vision that Hazrat Ibraheem^{as} was shown for the revival of his progeny. Hazrat Ibraheem^{as} was shown four birds on their respective hills which were attached to him and came to him when he called them. This vision signified the four separate times of rise and fall of Hazrat Ibraheem^{as}'s progeny. Through this vision, Allah comforted Hazrat Ibraheem^{as} and told him that He would safeguard his future generations. Thus, Hazrat Ibraheem^{as}'s anxious heart was put to rest.

Hazrat Ibraheem^{as} led a pious and exemplary life like all of the prophets of Allah do. He was a great champion of the unity of God and strived his whole life to abolish Shirk. In his lifetime, he was granted many miracles like being blessed with two righteous sons in his very old age and being saved from Nimrod, the arrogant king. Even after his death, Allah continued to accept his prayers and blessed his progeny with the birth of the greatest Prophet of all times, Hazrat Muhammad^{saw}. May we all, young and old alike, learn from the lessons of this great teacher.

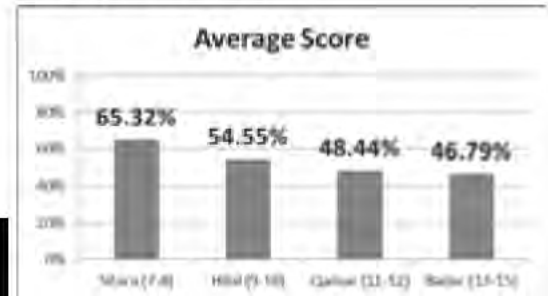
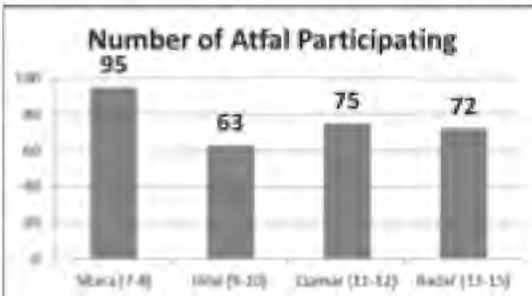


ATFAL MATTERS

Welcome to the Majlis Atfalul Ahmadiyya USA section for Gazette. You will find the information on our upcoming Atfal Rallies, a report on the Atfal exam from last quarter and other initiatives led by the Majlis

Atfal Exam Report

Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya USA conducted exams across the nation between February and May 2014. The questions for the exams were developed based on the Atfal Taleem Syllabus. The Taleem Syllabus is comprised of four levels, Sitara-e-Atfal, Hilal-e-Atfal, Qamar-e-Atfal, and Badar-e-Atfal. Prior to the exam being conducted, Nazimeen Atfal sent parents a study guide to help Atfal prepare for the exam.



Atfal Participation per Majalis

Majalis	# of Atfal	Majalis	# of Atfal	Majalis	# of Atfal	Majalis	# of Atfal
Austin	4	Cypress Houston	5	Miami	13	Saint Paul	3
Baltimore	11	Dallas	7	North Jersey	5	Seattle	10
Binghamton	4	Dayton	5	North Virginia	9	Silicon Valley	14
Boston	8	Fitchburg	4	Oakland/SF	0	Silver Spring	22
Brooklyn	15	Fort Worth	7	Oshkosh	3	Syracuse	3
Buffalo	1	Houston North	10	Philadelphia	6	Tulsa\Denver	1
Central Virginia	18	Houston South	3	Potomac	8	Washington, DC	6
Chicago East	6	Iowa	6	Rochester	4	Willingboro	14
Chicago Northwest	13	Laurel	11	Sacramento	1	York	20
Chicago Southwest	7	Long Island	9	Saint Louis	2	Zion	4
Columbus	2						

SIGNUP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER (ATFALUSA.ORG)



THE TIFL POST

Official Newsletter of Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya, USA



For Atfal Syllabus and any Taleem-o-Tarbiyyat related elements, visit <http://taleem.atfalusa.org>

To see what your son did during an Atfal class, visit <http://www.atfalusa.org/class-agendas>

8 ATFAL RALLIES - ONE THEME



N. CALIFORNIA (MAY 24-26)

LOS ANGELES (JUNE 21-22)

CHICAGO (JUNE 21-22)

HOUSTON (JUNE 14-15)

DETROIT JUNE 7 - 8)

SILVER SPRING (JUNE 14-15)

QUEENS (JUNE 21-22)

MIAMI (JUNE 21-24)

FUN ACTIVITIES

PARKS

MUSEUMS

HIKING

COOKOUTS

CAMPING

FIELD TRIPS

Q&A WITH MURABI SAHIB

SALAT MEMORIZATION WORKSHOPS

RALLY.ATFALUSA.ORG

BOLETÍN AHMADÍA

Boletín Oficial de la Comunidad Ahmadiya del Islam, USA - Una publicación cuatrimestral, espiritual y educativa

La esencia del verdadero amor por Al-lah

Resumen del discurso pronunciado por Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V
4 de abril del 2014

Hazur explicó que la adopción de los atributos divinos es una expresión del amor de Dios y como Hazur ya había explicado en sus sermones de los viernes con respecto al conocimiento y comprensión de Dios hace algunas semanas, hasta que no se conozcan todos los atributos de Dios no es posible obtener el conocimiento y comprensión divinos. El siguiente paso es el amor de Dios, y cuando se adoptan los atributos divinos, se obtiene la luz divina.

Frases como “mi cosecha floreció solamente porque yo la irrigué” o “tuve éxito gracias a mi propio esfuerzo”, o “se cumplió tal objetivo debido a la bondad de Zaid” o “me libré de la ruina debido a la vigilancia de Bakr” parecen triviales y falsas. Solamente cuando el hombre percibe a un único Ser, un único Poder, un Benefactor y una Mano, contempla los favores de Dios Todopoderoso, con claridad y sin ser enturbiado por la confianza en ningún medio.

Dios Todopoderoso ha llamado a esta religión del Islam con objeto de que el hombre adore a Dios Todopo-



deroso con una pasión innata y no por motivos egoístas, pues Islam significa abandonar todos los motivos y someterse voluntariamente a la voluntad de Dios. Ninguna otra religión en el mundo aparte el Islam mantiene estos objetivos. Sin duda, Dios Todopoderoso ha prometido a los creyentes todo tipo de bendiciones como un signo de su gracia. Sin embargo, a los creyentes que aspiran a obtener un estatus más elevado se les ha enseñado a adorar a Dios por puro amor hacia Él.

Es por esta razón por la que aquellos que disfrutaban de una relación santa y perfecta con Dios siempre se mantienen ocupados en la recitación del Istighfar. Un verdadero amante siempre está preocupado de no enojar a su amado, y su corazón ansía continua-

mente agradarle a la perfección, y ni siquiera se conforma incluso aunque el mismo Dios le informe de estar complacido con él.

El Mesías Prometido (as) dijo: "Si sabéis que tenéis la capacidad de amar como un verdadero y ferviente devoto, que aguanta el hambre y la sed cuando se separa del Amado y no se preocupa por el alimento ni la bebida, ni por su propio cuerpo, debéis fundiros en el amor de Dios de tal manera que vuestro propio ser se pierda en alguna parte del camino. Es muy afortunado el hombre que muere en tal estado. Estamos hablando del amor personal y no de revelaciones y visiones.

Si os hacéis de Dios, estad seguros de que Dios será vuestro. Os despertará cuando estéis dormidos, os cuidará cuando estéis desprevenidos y destruirá las estratagemas de vuestros enemigos. Aún no conocéis los poderes de Dios. ¡Si los hubierais conocido os hubierais entristecido profundamente cada día por este mundo! Una persona que tiene en posesión un tesoro no se lamenta ni llora por la pérdida de un centavo.

Supervisor: Waseem Sayed
Editora: Razia Tasnim
Editores adjuntos: Tarik Ata
Dr. Jamalud Din Zia
Asifa Zia

Masjid Baitur Rehman

15000 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905
Tlfo: 301-879-0110 Fax: 301-879-0115

Para más información, visite www.islamespaz.org



www.ahmadiyya.us

www.alislam.es

Siga @ elislam_us para obtener más información sobre el Islam en español

Del Sagrado Corán

Mas, ¿quién habla mejor que quien invita a los hombres a Al-lah, practica las buenas obras y dice: "Soy, en verdad, de quienes se someten"?

Pues, el bien y el mal no son equiparables. Rechaza el mal con lo que es mejor y observa como aquél entre cuya persona y tú existía la enemistad, se vuelve como si fuera un amigo entrañable.

Mas a nadie se le concede esto excepto a los perseverantes; y a nadie se le concede esto excepto al que posee una parte importante de excelsitud.



(C. 41, Vs 34-36)

Hadiz (Relatos del Santo Profeta (sa))

Abu Malik dijo: "El Mensajero de Al-lah (la paz y bendiciones de Dios sean con él) dijo: "La purificación constituye la mitad de la fe". (Muslim)

Yabir relató: "El Mensajero de Al-lah (la paz y bendiciones de Dios sean con él) dijo: "Toda obra buena es un acto de caridad". (Bujari)

Anas, hijo de Malik, dijo: "El Santo Profeta (la paz y bendiciones de Dios sean con él) dijo: "No encuentran satisfacción dos personas codiciosas. Una es la que busca conocimiento, que nunca le satisface, y la otra es la que persigue los bienes mundanos con sus adquisiciones mundanas". (Baihaqi)

Escritos del Mesías Prometido

Yo os aseguro que si las almas anhelan un sincero deseo de búsqueda y los corazones ansían el conocimiento, los seres humanos harán lo posible por descubrir este Camino o Sendero. Mas ¿cómo se puede descubrir este Camino y tener acceso a él? Yo puedo asegurar a todos los que buscan que sólo el Islam nos anuncia la buena nueva del mismo. Las demás doctrinas hace tiempo que han terminado con la idea de la revelación de Dios, pero no ha sido Dios el que ha puesto fin a la misma, sino el hombre mismo que, para justificar tal privación, se ampara en falsos pretextos. Tened la certeza de que, así como no es posible ver sin ojos, oír sin oídos ni hablar sin lengua, tampoco es posible observar a nuestro amado Dios sin la ayuda del Santo Corán. Fui joven y ya he envejecido, mas no conozco a nadie que haya bebido del cáliz de esta guía clara y manifiesta sin haber tenido acceso a esta fuente pura.



Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
(1835-1908)

(Brahine Ahmadía, parte 2)

CARTA DE HAZUR

Querido y Respetable Naseem Mahdi Sahib, Misionero Encargado de América:

AssalamoAlaikum wa Rahmatullah wa BarakatoHu!

Se ha recibido su fax en el que indica que se están abriendo varias puertas para la transmisión del mensaje a la población de habla española y que en este sentido se ha inaugurado una clínica médica gratuita en el Consulado General de Guatemala de Washington, que en un principio será semanal, pero cuya frecuencia aumentará gradualmente a medida que sea necesario. Esto me parece bien Masha-Al-lah. Que Dios conceda Su gracia y bendiga este trabajo. Que Al-lah, el Exaltado, premie al equipo dedicado a este servicio y los bendiga con Su Gracia.

Que Al-lah, el Exaltado, esté con usted y le capacite para ofrecer este tipo de servicios en el camino de Al-lah y sean aceptados por Él y produzcan buenos frutos. Amin.

Was-salam, Mirza Masrur Ahmad (Firmado por Huzur Aqdas)

CLÍNICA DE SALUD GRATUITA EN EL CONSULADO DE GUATEMALA



Alhamdolil-lah, la campaña “Musulmanes por la Vida II—Clínicas de Salud Gratuitas” tiene otra historia de éxito para compartir con ustedes. El Consulado General de Guatemala en Miami ha puesto en marcha una clínica de salud gratuita. Se trata de un esfuerzo mensual que fue lanzado el 8 de marzo del 2014 ... Para servir a los pacientes disponíamos de una enfermera [bilingüe], médicos y farmacéuticos. La historia ya ha sido compartida con ustedes a través de fotos, y a continuación reproduzco el mensaje del presidente de Miami (Munawar Ahmad Chaudhry Sahib) :

“Por la gracia de Dios , hoy hemos sido capaces de poner en marcha nuestra primera clínica de salud gratuita en el consulado de

Guatemala en el centro de Miami. Alhamdolil-lah el programa tuvo mucho éxito. La respuesta del consulado y de sus visitantes fue abrumadora. Aunque el horario de la clínica era de 9am a 1pm, se prolongó para poder asistir a todas las pacientes. Se ofreció evaluación médica y tratamiento gratuito a un total de 19 pacientes. El Dr. Tariq Mahmood con ayuda de Mutaher Chaudhry (farmacéutico) y el hermano Mudathir Adedeji (enfermero y traductor) proporcionaron servicios médicos y farmacéuticos . Marlon González, un organizador de la comunidad , nos ayudó a organizar y registrar la os pacientes. Mohtaram Imam Muhammad Saeed Sahib acudió a ayudarnos y dirigir las oraciones en silencio.”

Como todos ustedes saben, hemos puesto en marcha una clínica semanal de salud gratuita en el Consulado General de Guatemala en Silver Spring, MD desde el 31 de enero del 2014, con la ayuda del Dr. Ashraf Meelu Sahib y el Dr. Rafi Malik Sahib. Las historias de su trabajo son inspiradoras y la ayuda que se ha ofrecido está logrando resultados sorprendentes: el trabajo de salvar vidas que se está haciendo es realmente un sueño. Me gustaría se se realizara tal esfuerzo en el área de Los Angeles. He oído hablar diferentes fuentes que un número muy elevado [varios cientos de miles] de guatemaltecos viven en la zona sur de California.



Naseem Mahdi, Vicepresidente Nacional y Misionero Encargado, USA

CLÍNICA DE GUATEMALA EN WEST PALM BEACH

El sábado 05 de abril la Comunidad Ahmadía del Islam estaba prestando servicios médicos gratuitos a los menos afortunados en el consulado de Guatemala en West Palm Beach. El equipo estaba formado por Dr. Bashir Shaikh, Hermano Mudathir Adedeji y Aleem Uddin .

El consulado se encuentra en el interior de una escuela primaria. Al llegar, me quedé asombrado al ver a tantas personas en el consulado. El Dr. Bashir y el hermano Mudathir conversaban con los pacientes en español. Los pacientes llegaban continuamente y había una gran línea de pacientes que esperaban su turno . Llegaban todo tipo de pacientes, que tomaron ventaja de la atención mé

dica gratuita, desde niños pequeños hasta personas mayores de edad. Una familia en particular prestó bastantes servicios en la comunidad en Miami así como en los hospitales de Guatemala y elogió nuestro deseo de ayudar a los menos afortunados. Preguntaron por la Comunidad Ahmadía del Islam , y les hablamos de los diferentes programas de Humanity First desde la donación de sangre a otras iniciativas . Quedaron muy impresionados y les pedimos que trabajaran con nosotros en Guatemala. Al final de la jornada habíamos asistido a más de 30 pacientes en un lapso de cinco horas. Cada paciente que atendimos quedó muy satisfecho con nuestros servicios y se mostró muy agradecido.

Dr Tariq Mahmud

Tabligh en Nueva York

Estimado Sr. Sayed Waseem Sahib: Ayer tuve una experiencia interesante en el metro de Nueva York. Iba desde Queens a Manhattan, y había un grupo de predicadores cristianos viajando (chicos y chicas). Empezaron a hablar sobre la divinidad de Santo Jesucristo (as), y yo me levanté, y dije que dejaran de adorar a un cuerpo muerto. Había un hombre mayor en el grupo, con barba larga, y con voz fuerte. Me miró con frialdad y dijo: "¿Usted no cree que subió al cielo con cuerpo mortal?". Le dije: "No. Está enterrado en Cachemira". Dijo: "Usted no sabe lo que dice".

Se juntó gente a escuchar, y le dije que habían pruebas arqueológicas que justificaban mi aserto. Volvió a insistir que "yo estaba negando la verdad". Le dije entonces que ascendiera él físicamente al cielo con su cuerpo en ese momento delante de mí, porque "al tener la fe en Jesús de un grano de mostaza, tenía que hacer obras semejantes a las que él hizo". Un hombre americano que estaba escuchando la conversación, se acercó a mí, y me dijo: "Entiendo que usted es musulmán, usted lo considera un profeta, y su aproximación es infinitamente más lógica y racional".

Las chicas cristianas me miraban con asombro, y una me preguntó: "¿Quién es usted?". Le dije: "El hijo de un misionero musulmán". Inquirí a las chicas: "No os dais cuenta que estáis adorando a un cuerpo muerto". Me dijo una de ellas: "Pero si resucitó...". Le contesté: "Pues entonces era un resurrecto con hambre, pues comió pez y miel después de morir". Le dije al hombre blanco americano que buscara www.alislam.org. y les dije a las chicas: "Buscad en internet JESÚS EN LA INDIA". El hombre mayor de la barba larga había desaparecido de la escena. Hay muchas posibilidades de predicación en los Estados Unidos: hablé con personas de Colombia, varias de Perú, argentinas... La gente hispana es afable y amigable. Recuérdeme en sus oraciones y que tenga un buen viaje. Penita de no haber podido platicar cara a cara con usted.

Fazal Ilahi Qamar

Oportunidades para Voluntarios en Guatemala

Don de la Salud - Guatemala

El programa Don de la salud forma parte de la visión más amplia de Humanity First para brindar atención primaria de salud en aldeas remotas, donde las comunidades no sólo están privadas de los derechos fundamentales, sino también de las necesidades preventivas y médicas. Los viajes son por lo general de una semana de duración y tienen lugar en campamentos móviles en comunidades rurales de Guatemala.

Pueden enviar su solicitud todos los profesionales de la salud, estudiantes y voluntarios en general, con motivación y entusiasmo por el trabajo, independientemente de su origen o del dominio del español. Estos viajes son una gran oportunidad de servir a los necesitados, a la vez que una oportunidad de aprender y practicar el idioma español en un entorno real. Por favor, póngase en contacto con giftsofhealth@us.humanityfirst.org para obtener más información sobre las fechas, o bien si usted estuviera interesado en dirigir un equipo de estudiantes y voluntarios médicos.

Aprenda español y ayude a otros

La Academia de Español Aprenda y Ayude es una academia de español dirigida por Humanity First Guatemala, que ofrece cursos de español individuales y personalizadas. Además de los cursos impartidos en Antigua, Guatemala, está el programa de e-Learning que permite a los estudiantes e instructores comunicarse a través de Skype. Con el apoyo de este programa, Humanity First Guatemala será capaz de llevar a cabo socorro en caso de catástrofe, proyectos de desarrollo humano, exámenes y tratamientos médicos y programas educativos. Visite www.learnandhelp.gt para ver los paquetes, tarifas y más información acerca de lo que ofrecemos. No espere para "aprender y ayudar". Regístrese online hoy mismo.

<p>Página oficial en Twitter y proveedor principal de información Islámica en español de la Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadiá EE.UU.: @elislam_us</p>	<p>El mundo necesita un reformador. El Mesías ha llegado. ¿Preguntas o dudas? Para más información, visite: www.islamespaz.org</p>
--	--

Nuevos folletos en español disponibles
La Comunidad Ahmadiya, Yihad O Terrorismo, Jesús el Hijo de María y Velo Islámico.
Ordene ahora llamando a
1-800-WHY-ISLAM.

Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Inc. publica el Boletín Ahmadiá USA en la siguiente dirección:

Fazl-i-Umar Press, P.O. Box 226, Chauncey, OH 45719

Humanity First USA



Ghana/Liberia Mission, March 15-31, 2014

For the past several years, Humanity First USA (HF) has conducted surgical/medical training and educational courses in Ghana and Liberia. The team mainly comprises of US volunteer surgeons and healthcare professionals, and other notable practitioners from around the world. The courses offered by the HF team are geared towards training local healthcare professionals in the latest techniques in surgical and general care. Between March 15-31, 2014, the HF team offered critical training at the Nusrat Jehan Hospital and Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Ghana as well as the Tapitta Teaching Hospital in Liberia.

2014 is particularly important for the Nusrat Jehan Continuing Medical Education (CME) course in the Ahmadiyya Hospital in Dabose, Ghana. Under the guidance of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}, the CME course has been converted into a Global CME course in which more than 40 Nusrat Jehan doctors and other Ahmadi practitioners from 10 countries participated.

From top row to bottom: Tapitta Teaching Hospital Liberia, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital Ghana, and HF-Nusrat Jehan Global CME at Ahmadiyya Muslim Hospital Dabose, Ghana



Some Recent Activities



Our Kids Our Future: 'Early Bird Literacy' project in Martin Luther King Elementary in Vancouver, Washington; 'Early Literacy Skills' project in Hillcrest Elementary, Frederick Way Maryland.



Feed the Hungry in America: In the last few months, 6 food pantries helped more than 1,000 people. The soup kitchen in Philadelphia serves hot meals to over 1,000 people each month. Several food drives were organized.



HF-Bon Samaritan Primary School Haiti: Dr. Clayton Bell visited the school in April 2014 to oversee its progress. The number of students has increased to 210 students from pre-kindergarten through grade 4.



Gift of Health Mission Guatemala: GOH mission visited Guatemala March 1-9, 2014. HF organized a 5-day mobile clinic in the Alotenango area and treated 1,762 general medicine, 1,262 pediatrics, and 160 dental patients. In total served 3,184 patients.

Volunteer Opportunities with Humanity First USA

- Marketing & Fund Development Experts
- Copywriters who can help with reports/newsletters for print and developing creative content for our website
- Social Media Handlers/Bloggers
- Grant Writers/Researchers
- Photographers/Videographers

Use your skills to serve Humanity and earn a great experience for your first job, or your next big promotion at work.

Please email: sawkhan@us.humanityfirst.org

HF-USA's ONGOING PROGRAMS

Health

- Indonesia – Asih Sasama (Love for All) Clinic; Serving 500 patients each month.
- Mali - HF Medical Center serving on average 1,000 patients a month.
- Haiti - Community Health Workers program; 14 health workers caring for 250 hypertension patients and delivering public health education in communities.
- Guatemala – 4-6 mobile medical clinics each year under the Gift of Health program.
- Tanzania – HF and Radiologists W/O Borders established the first Mammography Lab in the country in 2013. Annual training for local technicians and radiologists.

Education

- USA – Our Kids Our Future (OKOF) program support school programs in the USA. Currently 2 schools being sponsored with educational grants.
- Haiti – HF Bon Samaritan Primary School; Educating 210 students.
- Mali – Bilal Primary School – 122 students are enrolled in grades 1 & 2.
- Mali – Construction of the 2nd school (Nasir Primary School) going on.

Vocational Education

- Liberia – Ahmadiyya Vocational College; Over 1,200 students graduated in 10 trades since 2011.
- Guatemala – Computer Center; 229 students are enrolled on full scholarships
- Guatemala – Learn & Help Academy; in English language course 54 full & 33 half scholarship students, and in Spanish language course 12 students are enrolled.
- Tanzania – Sewing Center; 11 students enrolled.
- Mali – Computer Center; 15-20 students on average enroll each month.
- Mali – Sewing Center Bamako; training 200 women and girls.
- Mali – Sewing Center Sikasso; 18 students are enrolled.

Water for Life

- Water for Life program is carried out in many countries throughout the year.

Feed the Hungry in America (FHA) Program

- Operational food pantries; 1 in Seattle, WA; 1 in Harrisburg, PA; 1 in Willingboro, NJ; and 1 in Dayton, OH.
- Soup kitchens in Philadelphia, PA serving meals each month.
- Sadiq Organic Community Garden in St. Louis operational for the last 2 years.

HF-USA's YEARLY PROGRAMS

- Ghana/Liberia – Surgical & medical training missions building capacity of local surgeons and physicians
- Guatemala – Gift of Sight mission provides free Cataract surgeries and train local professionals in latest techniques in Ophthalmology
- Disaster Relief – HF responds to disasters in the USA and globally as needed.



Water for Life

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ①

[56:69] Do you see the water which you drink?

[56:70] Is it you who send it down from the clouds, or are We the Sender?

[56:71] If We *so* pleased, We could make it bitter. Why, then, are you not grateful?

أَفَرَأَيْتُمُ الْمَاءَ الَّذِي تَشْرَبُونَ ②
أَأَنْتُمْ أَنْزَلْتُمُوهُ مِنَ الْمُزْنِ أَمْ
نَحْنُ الْمُنْزِلُونَ ③
لَوْ نَشَاءُ جَعَلْنَاهُ أُجَاجًا فَلَوْلَا
تَشْكُرُونَ ④

Share the blessings of clean drinking water with your fellow human beings. Every donated dollar for this noble cause can save a precious life.

Sponsor water well in the name of your loved ones as *Sadqa Jaaria* for \$1,000 which can serve a whole village of 500-1000 people.

Donate online at <http://usa.humanityfirst.org>, or

Mail checks to 300 E. Lombard St. Suite 840, Baltimore, MD 21202